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Agreement hailed as real progress

## Blair renews the threat of bombing

BY JILL SHERMAN, JAMES BONE AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

BRITAIN is to seek a fresh United Nations resolution authorising the immediate bombing of Baghdad should President Saddam Hussein renege on yesterday's deal allowing UN weapons inspectors in Iraq to resume.

The Prime Minister instructed Britain's Ambassador to the UN to seek the new Security Council resolution to make it "absolutely clear that we are not going to be back in this position playing the same game in two or three months".

Officials also insisted that Britain's Gulf forces would remain ready to strike until ministers were 100 per cent sure that Saddam had backed down and was allowing unfettered access for the UN weapons inspectors.

Nevertheless, Mr Blair joined the other four permanent members of the Security Council in expressing cautious relief at the deal struck between Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, and the Iraqi leadership to avert the threat of airstrikes.

Mr Annan described the agreement as serious and credible, while Iraq saw it as a "victory over the will of evil". Tariq Aziz, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, said it was a triumph for diplomacy over Western sabre-rattling, but Mr Annan acknowledged the effect of the military threat when he said that diplomacy backed by "firmness and force" could achieve more than diplomacy alone.

Mr Annan left Baghdad

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almost immediately for the journey back to New York, where he will report to the Security Council today. He stopped overnight in Paris where he had an informal dinner at the Elysee Palace with President Chirac, who congratulated him on his efforts. Mr Chirac's spokeswoman said that the French leader and President Clinton had agreed in a telephone conversation that the deal "conforms with the resolutions of the Security Council".

American officials confirmed that President Clinton was ready to offer cautious support for the agreement, which pleased Mr Annan. He said: "It's a very good sign. It's very encouraging."

The other permanent members of the Security Council — Russia and China — both welcomed the deal. Efforts by President Yeltsin was quick to claim credit for Russia's behind-the-scenes diplomacy in persuading Saddam to retreat from his demand that time limits be set on the weapons inspections, while China said it hoped the deal would "drive away the war haze hovering over the Gulf region".

Britain, like America, was studying the text of the agreement and refused to say whether it would accept the deal until the full details were explained to the Security

Council today. But Mr Blair said: "Provided all those things are sorted out and sorted out properly, then we have real progress."

However, he insisted that a new resolution must make it clear that the West would not again be drawn into some long drawn-out diplomatic game. The resolution should authorise rapid action "by whatever means necessary" to force Saddam to comply with UN decisions.

The bottom line had always been unconditional, unrestricted access to potential weapons sites. "Now if, as it appears, that is being given, that is a plus. But we need to see the detail. You have always got to be careful when you are dealing with someone like Saddam Hussein."

Mr Blair's official spokesman indicated that there could be a permanent or semi-permanent military presence in the Gulf to keep up the pressure and avoid the expense of repeatedly sending military forces to the area — the Defence Secretary said yesterday that Britain had so far spent £2.5 million moving forces to the Gulf.

"Until we are 100 per cent sure there can be no question of scaling down military preparations," Mr Blair's spokesman said. "It is important he is held absolutely to any agreement and that the allies can respond quickly to any further breach without needing to go through the various diplomatic rigmaroles."

"We cannot keep moving planes and aircraft-carriers to the region every time he chooses to misbehave."



Residents return to survey the wreckage after a tornado had ripped through Kissimmee, south of the Disney complex

## 30 die as tornados batter Florida

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

MORE than 30 people were killed early yesterday when violent thunderstorms and at least 12 tornados ripped through a 75-mile stretch of the tourist resort district of central Florida.

Most of the victims were asleep when the storms hit without warning just after midnight. "Some people slept right through it. They woke up and their house was gone," said Angela Braden, a sheriff's spokeswoman for Seminole County, north of Orlando, where at least 13 people were killed.

Several mobile home parks in the Orlando area, which are popular with retired Americans, were blown to pieces.

At Kissimmee, just south of the Walt Disney resort complex, there were reports of caravans littering a motorway while search teams went through the wreckage of twisted metal looking for survivors.

Several blocks of flats were also badly hit and one shopping centre collapsed.

One tornado, about 200 yards wide with winds of 150 to 250 mph, did cut through the Disney resort, but there were no reports of deaths.

The full extent of the loss of life and damage was not immediately clear as many areas were cut off by fallen trees and power lines.

Officials were unable to estimate the number of tornados, although there were at least 12. "We've had so many touchdowns we can't keep track of them," said Ms Braden at the sheriff's office in Seminole County.

In Orange County, west of Orlando, the rescue effort was severely hampered because of power cuts.

Unlike the summer hurricane season when warnings are given days in advance, tornados are much harder to predict.

Weather eye, page 13

### Loyalist warning after car bomb

A car bomb in the Unionist stronghold of Portadown had led to loyalist warnings of a return to full-scale conflict in Northern Ireland.

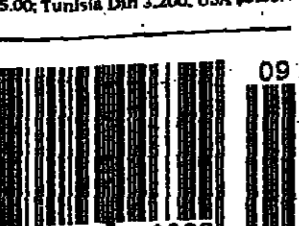
The bomb destroyed two buildings in the centre of the town and damaged at least a dozen others. Page 2

### Cold snap alert

Winter is not over yet, according to forecasters, who yesterday predicted a return to colder weather, with snow and freezing temperatures, by the end of the week. Forecast, page 26

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## Doctor crashes car after resigning job

BY TERRI JUDD

MORE than 2,000 heart patients were having their cases reviewed last night after their consultant crashed his car over a cliff after Gwynedd Hospitals NHS Trust announced that there were doubts about his qualifications.

The trust said Dr David Thomas, 36, had claimed to be a member of the Royal College of Physicians despite having failed the examinations three times.

The cardiologist was being treated at his own former hospital, Ysbyty Gwynedd, yesterday. After resigning and leaving for home at Caerhun, near Bangor, he lost control of his Audi convertible, spun off the road and plunged 100 ft down a ravine, leaving him with serious chest injuries.

The trouble started after a colleague cast doubts about his qualifications following a chance meeting with a former workmate at a medical seminar.

"Dr Thomas is a qualified medical practitioner and no concerns have been raised over his clinical ability," Robert Lewis, a trust spokesman, said.

"Dr Thomas, in admitting the deception, immediately offered his resignation and removal of his name from the consultant specialist register."

His formal resignation was accepted on Sunday and he was reported to the General Medical Council, which will decide whether or not to take action.

Dr Thomas joined the hospital in 1995 when he was successfully interviewed for the post of consultant physician with an interest in cardiology. The hospital said last night that he could have been appointed without the additional qualifications he claimed to have but it would have been highly unlikely. "The trust deeply regrets this incident."

## Retreat on country matters

THE Government signalled retreat in three areas of rural policy yesterday ahead of Sunday's march through London by countryside campaigners (Polly Newton writes).

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, told MPs that a new, higher target had been set for the proportion of homes to be built in urban areas.

There was also a growing expectation that the Government would abandon its proposed ban on the sale of unpasteurised or "raw" milk after a raft of objections.

Tomorrow, Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, will unveil plans for a voluntary code for landowners to give walkers greater access to the countryside, stopping short of legislation that would guarantee a "right to roam".

Green fields, page 10  
Leading article, page 21

## Justice - now seen to be advertised

BY FRANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CENTURIES of secrecy surrounding the appointment of senior judges ends today with the publication of the first advertisement for appointment to the High Court bench.

The advertisement, in *The Times*, invites applications for High Court judges from "suitably qualified practitioners and from serving circuit judges in England and Wales". No specific job is mentioned: the advertisement merely says that vacancies may arise after October 1.

The advertisement also omits to tell applicants that they would earn £116,045 from April — perhaps a disincentive for top earning Queen's Counsel — or that they will have long holidays (at least ten weeks a year, even allowing for reading, writing judgments and vacation sitting).

But those who apply will receive an explanatory note, a job description and statement of criteria for appointment to the High Court bench.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, said that all applications would be considered "strictly on merit". But he said he was particularly keen that women and ethnic minority lawyers should "give this opportunity serious thought".

Legal vacancies, page 44



## British paparazzi sentenced to jail in LA



FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

THE two British photographers convicted of false imprisonment after chasing Arnold Schwarzenegger through Santa Monica were sentenced yesterday to jail terms. The judge criticised them for failing to appreciate the severity of their crime.

Andrew O'Brien, 31, was sentenced to 90 days in the Los Angeles County Jail and his colleague Giles Harrison, 29, received 60 days. Each man was also fined \$500

(£300) and ordered to pay a "penalty assessment". The sentences were suspended pending an appeal.

"This is a substantial amount of jail time for people who were just doing their jobs," Judge Robert Altman said after sentencing, recognising that paparazzi have never before received jail terms despite their running battles for celebrity photographs in Hollywood. The judge said that the case was exceptional, however, because Schwarzenegger was being driven by his pregnant wife

with a three-year-old child in the rear seat of her Mercedes and was himself unwell.

"What troubles me most is that Mr Schwarzenegger had just gotten out of hospital after heart surgery and the defendants knew it," the judge said. "Not only did they know it, that was the reason they were chasing him."

The California judge said that he was not trying to "send a message" to paparazzi in general, but he had found the photographers' evidence lacking in credibility. He had believed the Schwarzeneg-

gers' account of last May's chase, an account whose details O'Brien disputes.

The sentencing came just after Dianne Feinstein, a Californian senator, announced a Bill to protect celebrities' privacy that will be debated by Congress in the next session. It brought an outraged response from Charles Lindner, O'Brien's lawyer, who also denounced the two sentences.

Mr Lindner said: "We've got movie star justice here. Princess Diana is dead and the word paparazzi has become infected."

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# Sweet nothings become bottom line for a Prescott reborn

John Prescott is doing rather well in his hybrid role as Environment and Transport supremo and Deputy Prime Minister. There are memories (it is true) of another Prescott: the bruiser of former days. That was the Prescott of flailing arms and flailing speeches — wild rants within which civil war raged between the nouns and the verbs, sub-clause was pitted against sub-clause, adverbs staggered bloodied from the field and adjectives were carried off in stretchers — fearful encounters where by

the end not a single sentence was left standing and misplaced participles wandered among the rubble. But those days are past; Mr Prescott has been redesigned: and only a hint of the riot his speeches once were now survives in the sober addresses he offers Parliament. As Fagin sings in *Oliver*, "Can somebody change? It's possible." So the Deputy Prime Minister looked wounded and surprised at the gale of laughter engulfing him when, a minute in to his Statement to

the Commons yesterday, "Planning For the Communities of the Future", the great man bellowed "much of the debate so far has been clouded by unhelpful language, crude figures and confused statistics". Tory cries of "yes, yours" were below-the-belt for the speech was perfect newspeak, full of aspirational abstract nouns, signifying nothing. Soon we were "meeting household growth in a sustainable way," organising "regional planning conferences" with "responsibility and ac-

countability" and "putting the heart back into our cities". Beneath our press gallery on the Opposition Front Bench I spotted the former Attorney General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, caricaturing Mr Prescott in the margins of his Order Paper. The drawing was stylishly executed, new flourishes being inked in as the unwit-



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

grasp it, slips through your fingers in a wisp of cold steam, it was a relief to encounter the occasional flinty chip of Old Prescott. At one point Hertfordshire joined the Vatican, the Lebanon and The Netherlands and became "the Hertfordshire". Or perhaps he meant a pub. And what did the Deputy Prime Minister mean when, all at once and to our considerable shock, he cried: "I want this to be a truly bottom-up approach?" Surely not! A truly bottom-up approach from John Prescott would be a

most terrifying prospect. MPs with weaker stomachs paled as he spoke. All the more alarming that Mr Prescott seemed morbidly fascinated by the upturned bottom. Moments later he was at it again... "But the whole philosophy of our approach is to strengthen local responsibility and to have a bottom-up approach" No ministerial statement has ever featured bottoms in two consecutive paragraphs; and it now appeared it was not just Mr Prescott's but "our" approach which was to be bot-

tom-up. The thought of multiple bottoms-up among the Government's ranks alarmed MPs. But then yesterday was a difficult one for Westminster wordsmiths. Questioning Social Security minister, Bob Russell (Lib-Dem, Colchester), anxious to describe the last Government's furch into creating a Child Support Agency, and seeking the past tense of "sleepwalk", chose "step-walked". I suppose they did. Just as in the 1970s, Peter Mandelson broke-danced.

# Loyalists say bomb may shatter ceasefire

Devastating attack in Portadown bears signs of republican splinter group, reports Martin Fletcher

A REPUBLICAN car bomb in the Unionist stronghold of Portadown had leading loyalists warning of a return to full-scale conflict in Northern Ireland last night. The bomb, and another in the nearby village of Moira last Friday night, had put the loyalist ceasefire in serious jeopardy, said Billy Hutchinson, a leader of the Progressive Unionist Party, which represents the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force. "Loyalists will not sit back and watch loyalist towns being bombed and their people intimidated by the IRA." The bomb, which went off at lunchtime in a grey BMW, destroyed two buildings in the centre of the Co Armagh town and damaged at least a dozen others including shops, banks and the town hall, where 150 young children and their parents had been taking part in a poetry competition. The police had managed to evacuate the immediate area after receiving a coded warning, but said the time given was "quite inadequate to clear a commercial centre of hundreds of people". There was no immediate claim of responsibility. An obsolete IRA codeword was used in the warning. The attack bore the hallmarks of the Continuity IRA, a republican splinter group that opposes the peace process and has mounted several similar attacks in recent months. David Trimble, the Ulster

Unionist Party leader whose constituency includes Portadown, said the IRA was "venting its spleen" after Sinn Fein failed to make headway in the talks and its ejection last week. He insisted there could now be no question of it being readmitted. Sinn Fein said the IRA ceasefire remained intact and called on those responsible for the Moira and Portadown bombs to identify themselves. Security sources believe the CIRA was responsible for the 500lb Moira car bomb but Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC Chief Constable, said it was too early to say who was to blame for yesterday's attack. An RUC spokesman said the police were urgently considering measures to increase security across the Province. Those would probably include the reintroduction of road-blocks and once again closing town centres to traffic. Barricades were erected in Londonderry last night. Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, called the bombing "a desperate bid by ruthless people to destabilise Northern Ireland and undermine confidence in the peace process". She insisted that "cowardly terror tactics" would not derail the talks. Earlier in the day the Portadown-based Loyalist Volunteer Force, another splinter group that opposes the ceasefire, left a crude car bomb outside a police station in Dromad, just south of the



Damping down: firefighters at work in Portadown after a huge bomb destroyed two buildings and damaged at least a dozen others yesterday

border in Co Louth, in apparent retaliation for the Moira bomb. UVF members heckled Mr Trimble as he spoke to reporters near the site of the bomb. They also barracked Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, and demanded a full-scale offensive against the IRA. Yesterday was the first day of Sinn Fein's expulsion from the talks. Gerry Adams, the party's president, is demand-

ing a meeting with Tony Blair before deciding whether Sinn Fein should return on March 9, but Ken Maginnis, the UUP MP for Fermanagh, said that the Prime Minister could wreck the entire process if he agreed. The bomb "reduced many ordinary people in Portadown to tears. It destroyed buildings that had only just been rebuilt after an IRA bomb in 1993 destroyed much of the town centre."

## BAND OF RENEGADES THAT MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY

There was a time when the Continuity IRA was regarded as a joke, but not any more (Martin Fletcher writes). Since last August the tiny renegade group of perhaps two or three dozen activists has launched up to six major bomb attacks. "Miraculously, it has yet to kill anyone. CIRA is the military wing of Republican Sinn Fein, a tiny party of purists led by Roairi O Bradaigh — a former Sinn Fein president — that split from Sinn Fein in 1986. It grew militarily active after the IRA called its last ceasefire in 1994. It opposes Sinn Fein's

peace strategy, believing it can only cement Ireland's partition, and has recently attracted disgruntled IRA hardliners with bomb-making skills. Unionists claim CIRA is now a mere flag of convenience for the IRA, but security officials dispute that. Last August a CIRA car bomb containing up to 1,000lb of explosive failed to explode outside an hotel in Co Fermanagh. The next month CIRA detonated a 400lb car bomb in Markethill, Co Armagh, just as the Ulster Unionist Party was preparing to rejoin the talks.

The controversy over the refurbishment was reignited yesterday when Lord Irvine of Lairg, in his first public statement, confirmed that the spending programme was ordered after he became Lord Chancellor. He released a 650-word statement which set out the background to the decision to spend the money on the refurbishment. In the statement he revealed — only one day after it emerged that the Prime Minister would use the apartments for official entertaining — that charities would also be given limited but free access to the property. But the Lord Chancellor's Department was unable to say how many days in the year the buildings would be opened to outsiders. The American Associates of the RA, which has loaned 12 works of art, will have lunch and a guided tour at the Grade I listed apartments. Lord Irvine said in the statement that "decisions to lend works of art to the Lord Chancellor's Residence were taken by the independent Trustees of each of the following galleries. All works of art and sculpture will come from reserve collections, be from cellars, and there will be substantial public access to view the Residence and these works." They had been lent on the understanding they would be returned immediately on request.

# American tourists first to see Irvine's new decor

By Andrew Pierce  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WEALTHY American tourists will be among the first to glimpse the £650,000 improvements at the Lord Chancellor's official residence when he opens the doors to the public. American Associates of the Royal Academy, which was one of the five institutions to have loaned works of art for display at the Lord Chancellor's apartments, will be at the head of the queue to admire the Pugin craftsmanship. The trip is the highlight of a RA cultural weekend in June for the 30-strong group which is flying into London from New York. They will leave significant donations for the academy.

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# Meat-on-bone ban may extend to EU

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

ALL European Union states could be required to follow Britain's example and ban the sale of meat on the bone as an anti-BSE measure under a proposal to be considered by the European Commission tomorrow. The Commission will decide on the merits of recommendations by scientists who want to extend the list of animal material deemed to carry a risk of transmitting "mad cow" disease. The advisory scientific steering committee agreed with the British view that meat attached to the spinal column, such as T-bone steaks, carried enough risk to justify a ban. It is recommended that the measure should apply to all beef and to meat from sheep and goats older than 12 months. This would effectively exempt lamb chops. However, the Commission will weigh the scheme against the likely resistance from the affected states before deciding whether to put the idea of a ban to the policy-making vet-

erinary scientists who represent the governments. "This is just an opinion, we have to look at all the factors," a Commission farm official said. The opinion from the scientists, who include veterinary All butchers will have to be licensed by summer next year under plans unveiled by the Government after the outbreak of E. coli O157 food poisoning in Scotland in 1996 and 1997. The scheme is one of 32 recommendations made by Professor Hugh Pennington to prevent a recurrence of the outbreak, in which 20 people died. experts and food specialists, will nevertheless bolster the Government's case for maintaining its widely criticised ban on beef on the bone. The scientists noted that 3.8 per cent of the total risk material from each animal was estimated to come from "dorsal

root ganglia", tissue attached to the spinal column. This was enough to have it eliminated it from the food chain. Under the proposal being considered by the Commission, states without any native BSE could apply from exemption from the meat-on-the-bone ban and other more stringent conditions that would be added to the EU's approved list of risk materials. This list is due to come into force in the summer after resistance from other member states and trading partners. Britain, Ireland, France, Portugal, The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg have reported indigenous BSE cases. Although it could be exempted from the bone ban, Germany, the fiercest opponent to any easing of the British export ban, is expected to continue putting into force the shorter list of measures. Progress on tougher EU rules on meat could be linked to movement on lifting the British embargo, diplomats suggested.

# Heseltine supports dome plea

By Nicholas Watt and Jill Sherman

THE Prime Minister will share a platform with Michael Heseltine today to issue a plea for an end to carping about the Millennium Dome. Over breakfast at London's Festival Hall — the site of the 1951 Festival of Britain — the former Deputy Prime Minister will sit within feet of Tony Blair as he unveils details of seven areas inside the dome. Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, last night said the presence of the former Deputy Prime Minister was a sign of the bipartisan appeal of the dome. Mr Heseltine is the Opposition's formal representative on the Millennium Commission. Mr Blair will launch a video showing seven of the nine areas inside the dome, under the themes of "Who we are", "What we do" and "Where we live". He will appeal to Tory frontbenchers to follow Mr Heseltine's lead and to end their criticism of the dome. Peter Riddell, page 10 Letters, page 21

# Warders head for clash over safety protest

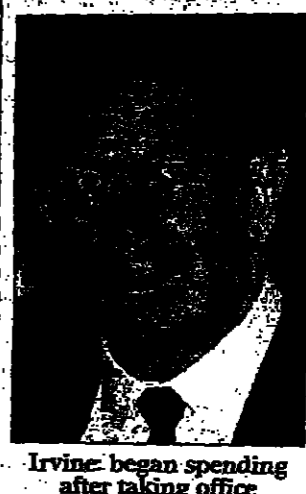
By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

CONFRONTATION between the Government and a trade union could come within weeks after prison officers' leaders yesterday threatened disruptive action. They are threatening to defy the law barring them from industrial action with the danger that their funds will be sequestered and the union fined. A special delegate conference of the Prison Officers' Association agreed that the health and safety of officers in 140 jails in England and Wales would be protected "if necessary through collective action". Mark Healy, chairman of the POA, said confrontation was now "likely" within weeks at any prison in the country. If officers take action on grounds of health and safety over problems such as overcrowding and the law was used against them, it would trigger a national dispute. POA leaders are angry at

# Parliament programme may switch

By Raymond Snoddy  
MEDIA EDITOR

THE BBC yesterday announced proposals for Yesterday in Parliament, the daily parliamentary programme broadcast in the Today programme, to move to long wave. It would be extended from its present 15 minutes to 23 minutes, but may get lower audiences on long wave. The proposal could prove unpopular with Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, who recently expressed concern at plans to reschedule the programme. It is part of BBC plans to "strengthen reporting of Parliament across radio and television with an extra 79 hours of programming a year". On BBC2, the *Midnight Hour* programme will be replaced with a new nightly programme at midnight covering the day in Parliament with the working title of Parliament Square. There will also be a new hour-long Sunday evening programme on Radio 4 covering Westminster, including the work of select committees.



Irvine began spending after taking office

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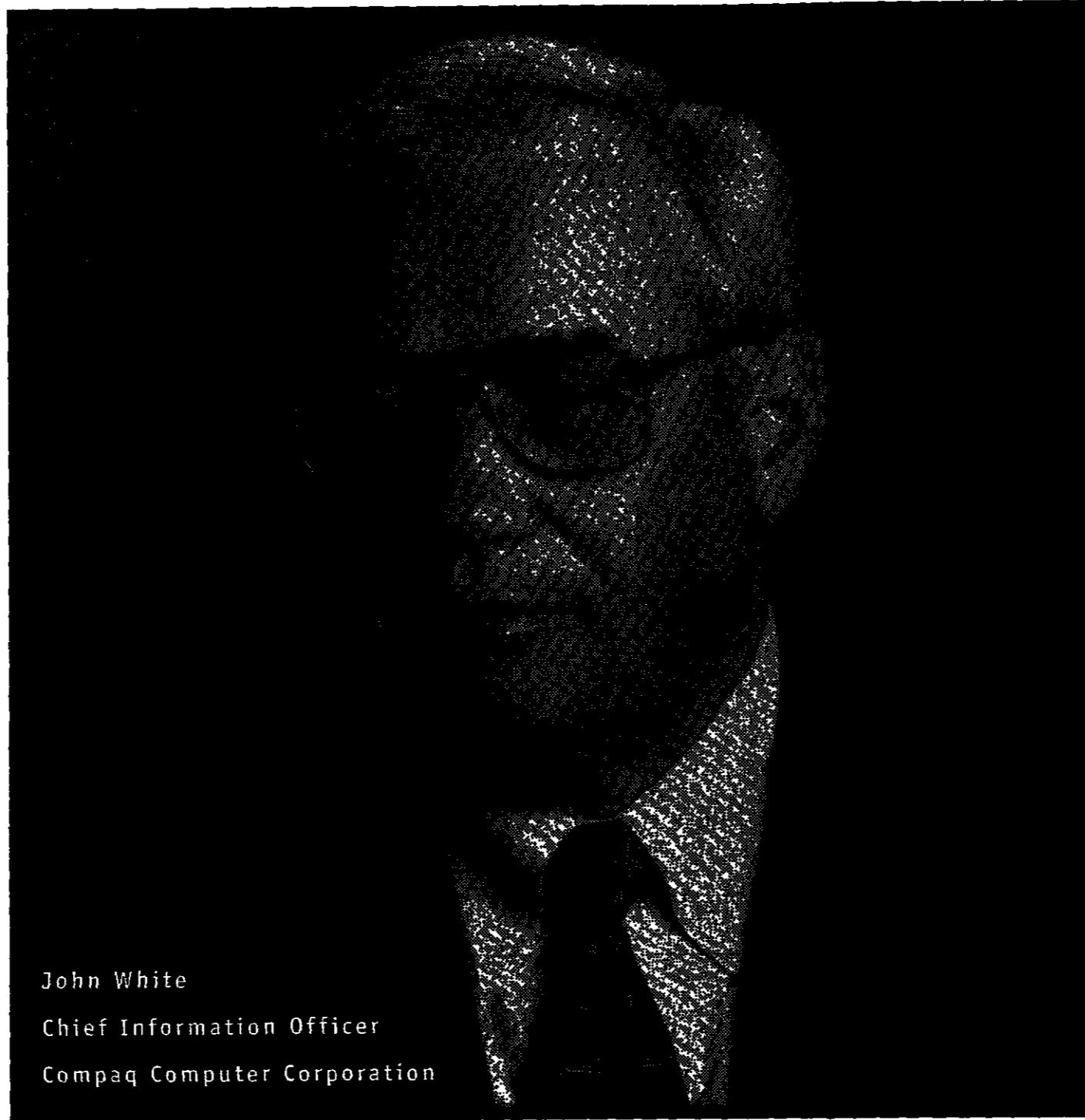
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# Downing Street accused over Connery 'smear'

James Landale and Polly Newton on lost knighthood

DOWNING STREET was last night accused of smearing Sean Connery after claims that the Government vetoed plans to give the actor a knighthood.

Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader, said that No 10 aides and Labour officials had given briefings against the 67-year-old actor and demanded a statement from Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary.

The previous Tory administration recommended a knighthood for Mr Connery for service to the arts. Mr Dewar had been reported to have blocked the honour because of his longstanding public support for the SNP.

Later claims, attributed to government sources, suggested that ministers had been concerned about the actor's views on domestic violence towards women. Mr Connery suggested in a 1965 interview for *Playboy* that there were occasions when it was acceptable for a man to slap a woman.

Downing Street and the Scottish Office yesterday refused to confirm or to deny the knighthood claims. The Prime Minister's official spokesman said that he did not know Tony Blair's views on the issue and that Mr Blair was concerned with more important issues. In a letter to Mr Dewar, Mr Salmond said

there was huge public interest in the Government's "politically motivated decision to block the proposed honour".

He told the Scottish Secretary: "It is simply unacceptable for you to refuse to comment on the matter in the full knowledge that Labour Party sources are briefing against Mr Connery behind the scenes. While you are quoted on television bulletins saying that it would not be proper to make a statement, you must be well aware that Downing Street aides think it perfectly proper to be quoted in the press this morning smearing Mr Connery's reputation."

Mr Salmond said this was "shabby behaviour" and an "appalling way to treat one of Scotland's most famous sons".

He pointed out Mr Connery's willingness to share a platform with Mr Dewar in the cross-party campaign for a "yes" vote in last year's referendum on a Scottish parliament. "In the past, it had been thought that the worst excesses of new Labour spin-doctoring did not apply to your own conduct, but the events of the last 48 hours call this assumption into serious question."

Mr Salmond has tabled three parliamentary questions demanding disclosure of all the relevant documents concerning the Government's de-

cision to reverse the recommended honour for Mr Connery.

His publicist said that the actor was "greatly disappointed" about the claims that his knighthood was blocked.

Mr Salmond said that Mr Connery had left a message on his answerphone on Saturday night, quoting from the poem by Robbie Burns, *For a' that and a' that: 'A prince can mak a belted knight, / A marquis, duke an' a' that; / The man o' independent mind, / He looks an' laughs at a' that.*

Mr Connery's views on women emerged after he was asked by *Playboy* how he felt about "roughing up" women in his role as James Bond. He replied: "I don't think there is anything particularly wrong about hitting a woman - although I don't recommend doing it in the same way that you'd hit a man. An open-handed slap is justified - if all other alternatives fail and there has been plenty of warning. If a woman is a bitch, or hysterical, or bloody-minded continually, then I would do it."

In an interview with *Vanity Fair* in June 1993, Mr Connery said that the remarks had been taken out of context. "I was really saying that to slap a woman was not the cruelest thing you can do to her. It's much more cruel to psychologically damage somebody... to put them in such distress that they really come to hate themselves. Sometimes there are women who really take it to the wire. That's what they're looking for, the ultimate confrontation - they want a smack."

Maria Fyfe, Labour MP for Glasgow Maryhill, said: "I'm very glad that Mr Connery was not given a knighthood. I would have been outraged if he had. The attitude he has shown towards violence towards women is one that is not compatible with being honoured in that way."



Connery controversy over treatment of women

Leading article pages 21



The Range Rover was found several days after it was stolen from the airport car park where Mr Hague had left it

## Vague Hague parked his car on wrong side of the law

BY PAUL WILKINSON AND ANDREW PIERCE

WILLIAM HAGUE broke the law on at least two counts by not taxing a car he had bought for his wife. It was disclosed yesterday.

The metallic blue Range Rover, which the Leader of the Opposition had bought from an old friend, was stolen from a public car park at Teesside Airport. The thieves abandoned it three days later. The tax disc was more than two weeks out of date.

Mr Hague discovered the theft when he went to collect the Range Rover from the car park at the airport where he had left it six days earlier.

The police, who had found the car 30 miles away in Redcar, had been unable to trace the owner. Not only was the tax disc out of date, but there were irregularities in the registration documents. It was registered in the name of Fiona Jenkins, but the paperwork was not filled out correctly. The car had only a six-month tax disc.

It was only when Mr Hague reported his car missing that the police realised who was the owner. An embarrassed Mr Hague, when asked by the police if he



The expired disc for the car bought for Mrs Hague



was the owner, replied: Yes. The police then had to inform the Conservative leader that his tax disc had expired three weeks earlier and that he faced a fine of up to £1,000. Mr Hague committed a further offence because the car was in a public car park without the relevant Excise documents.

The Department of Transport confirmed that there could have been a third breach of the law. "The insurance could have been invalidated. It depends on the policy," said an official.

Durham police said that they had not yet interviewed Mr Hague or his wife, but intended to take a statement. A prosecution is unlikely. The spokesman said: "We follow national guidelines

and, if an officer came across a car and the tax disc had expired by more than two weeks, we would report the matter to the Driving Vehicle Licensing Agency. If an officer came across a parked car and the tax disc was more than 14 days out of date, the matter would be reported to DVLA."

When Mr Hague drove the car to the airport for the last time, the disc was already 15 days out of date. Offenders usually also face court costs and would be ordered to pay the unpaid tax, depending on how long they have been driving without a road fund licence.

The automatic Range Rover was found abandoned last Tuesday. The driver's window was shattered and the door and steering column locks were smashed.

It was taken to a nearby garage at Salburn and was still there yesterday, displaying the expired tax disc. Mr Hague's advisers bought a new one yesterday. Police and airport officials have examined closed-circuit security camera footage but no one has yet been arrested in connection with the theft. A spokesman for the Conservative Party said: "Unfortunately this sort of crime is all too common today and Mr Hague is grateful to the police for their efforts." Asked about the tax disc, he said: "These things happen." Last night Conservative Central Office said: "The tax disc lapse was an oversight which has been rectified today."

Mr Hague has had a history of problems with cars. In 1989, three weeks after Mr Hague became an MP, his Ford Sierra was stolen, complete with his newly pressed laundry on the back seat. The car was stripped down. The shirts were never recovered.

The first time Mr Hague went to Chequers, in 1991, he had to abandon the car and walk up the long drive after security officials failed to prise open the boot.

## New year 2000 will be no party for the police

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT AND AGNES BELL

A GROWING army of workers has already been told that the millennium celebrations will mean business as usual as employers try to avert a staffing crisis.

Kent police is among those that have issued a memo cancelling all leave and rest days for the holiday period over December 1999 and January 2000, describing it to their 5,000 officers as a Millennium Emergency.

Kent police have also been told they must work 12-hour shifts instead of the normal eight hours for the duration. A spokesman said they were erring on the side of caution. "It does seem a bit early, but it was felt officers should be told of the need for them to work so that they don't book up an expensive millennium celebration they would then have to cancel."

Other forces who have notified staff of their intention to cancel leave include Devon and Cornwall, Derbyshire and the Metropolitan Police.

A spokesman for Derbyshire police said: "It will be a stressful time, not just because of the extensive partying but because of all the other potential problems such as computer breakdown. We are anticipating potential chaos, with traffic lights and street lights going wrong, so we need to be sure we have enough people to cope."

The millennium arrangements were greeted with caution by Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, who said he welcomed early notice as long as it was recognised that police officers had the right to make some plans of their own. "We hope that any officers later found to be not required are given ample time to make alternative arrangements," he said.

Yesterday Waitrose informed staff that it would close all its 117 stores on January 1, 2000, to let them sleep off the excesses of the night before. It is the first supermarket to do so. Other major chains are expected to make their decision about opening hours in April.

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# Footballer claims club's negligence wrecked his career



Brady: says club failed to treat leg problem

A FORMER professional footballer began a damages claim against Sunderland Football Club yesterday over its alleged failure to spot a rare circulation disorder that ended his playing career.

Kieron Brady, 26, claimed that he would have had a successful career — perhaps even representing Ireland — instead of being forced out of the game at 21. He is also suing two consultants at Sunderland District General Hospital — Leslie Boobis, a surgeon, and Simon England, a consultant radiologist — claiming he could have played for a further seven years had they given him appropriate treatment. Both the club and the

doctors deny negligence. Mr Brady, the court was told, had been suffering from a vascular problem called popliteal artery entrapment syndrome and, despite an operation, there was still a 10 per cent chance that his right leg might have to be amputated.

Mary O'Rourke, for Mr Brady, said he had joined Sunderland in 1988 aged 17 on a YTS training scheme and was later taken on as a professional. He had, she added, represented Ireland at Under-21 level. In June 1991 he began to suffer pain in his right calf. His discomfort was persistent by the summer of 1992, but, Miss O'Rourke claimed,

his complaints to the club physio-therapist and coach went unheeded. "Essentially the complaint is that the club failed to take seriously his complaints of pain and there was a three-month delay in referring him for medical advice."

Had he been referred earlier, Mr Brady, a winger, would have made a full recovery, Miss O'Rourke said, and would probably never have played outside the Premiership or the First Division. When he was referred for treatment, Mr Boobis and Mr England took the "joint decision" to operate, but Miss O'Rourke claimed the angioplasty surgery in January 1993 had been "inappropriate" and Mr

Brady had been denied what could otherwise have been seven more years in the game.

Colin Mackay, QC, for Sunderland, said the issue was whether Mr Brady had a "rosy future in the game, or whether he was probably destined to be just another journeyman footballer in the middle and lower echelons". The club said he had failed to fulfil his early promise, as did many players.

Sunderland were in the Second Division when he played for them. The club said that he was never an established first-team player and was not selected for the squad which represented Sunderland in the 1992

FA Cup Final. He was temporarily transferred on loan to Doncaster Rovers, a club in the bottom part of the league, between October and November 1992.

Miss O'Rourke said earlier that the club's case was that the first sign of a circulation problem was on November 30, 1992, when Mr Brady was substituted at half-time while playing for the reserves against Nottingham Forest.

It claimed that he was referred for medical advice as quickly as could reasonably be expected. Nevertheless he had to quit the game at the end of his contract in June 1993.

The hearing continues.

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Sovereign's art hanging in Essex

The only known painting by the Duke of Windsor is hanging on the wall of a house in Essex, it has emerged. The framed pen-and-ink drawing of a warship dates from 1909, when he was Prince of Wales. It was done in an autograph book belonging to Edward Cawdron Corteaux, a fellow cadet at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth. It was bought by John Brandler, who runs an art gallery in Brentwood, Essex, at an auction in Sussex for a few thousand pounds about ten years ago.

## Heart burial

A casket containing what is believed may be the heart of Robert the Bruce will be laid to rest at Melrose Abbey on June 24, 684 years to the day after his victory at the Battle of Bannockburn. The casket, which was discovered during excavations in 1996, will be marked by a sandstone slab designed by Victoria Oswald, 39, a BBC sound engineer.

## Rector banned

The clergyman who buried Diana, Princess of Wales, was banned from driving for four years by Chichester magistrates after admitting drink-driving. The Rev Victor Malan, rector of North Mundham, Hunston and Merston, near Chichester, was also fined £750 with 50 costs. He was nearly three times over the limit.

## Crash damages

A judo champion who suffered brain damage in a car crash has received £250,000 damages in an out-of-court settlement. David Lennock, 22, of Northrepps, Norfolk, was a passenger in the car, driven by a friend. He was in the national junior squad until the accident in September 1991. His claim was heard at Norwich County Court.

## Election claim

Conservatives have demanded a public inquiry into allegations that Streatham Labour Party, in South London, broke the law over the declaration of general election expenses. Keith Hill, Labour MP for Streatham, is accused of not paying all his expenses within 28 days, but signing a declaration to say he had. He denies the claim.

## Scouters jailed

Robert Kearns, 49, a West London Scouter, was jailed for 30 months at Southwark after admitting five charges of indecent assault against two boys, conspiring to take indecent photographs and planning to distribute them. A fellow Scouter, Keith Spratt, 49, of Bracknell, Berkshire, was jailed for 12 months for conspiracy.

## Out of currency

About 660 million worth of old 50p coins, which cease to be legal tender after Saturday, are still "languishing in coat pockets, purses and money boxes", the Royal Mint said. The coins, replaced by a smaller, lighter version, will have to be spent at 12,500 a minute to meet the deadline. But some banks may take them after that.

# Clubs accused of fixing replica soccer kit prices

THE Office of Fair Trading began an investigation yesterday into the high cost of replica football kits after claims that clubs are involved in price-fixing.

It has sent letters to all FA Premiership teams after complaints from shops of pressure from clubs and manufacturers to keep prices in the £200 million industry artificially high.

The OFT has given all clubs until the end of the month to provide details of licences and royalty arrangements. A spokesman said that, if prices were being kept artificially high, there would be grounds for action against the manufacturers. But he added: "There's some evidence that football clubs are putting pressure on suppliers to ensure the prices are kept up. We need to see if that's the case to see if there are grounds for taking action against the clubs."

The move was welcomed by the Football Supporters Association's vice-chairwoman, Sheila Spiers. She said: "We have been concerned for a long time about the price of shirts. We get a virtually constant stream of complaints about there being almost a maintained price, where all people who sell it are forced to charge the same."

"We are particularly concerned about the sale of junior

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating Premiership teams, writes

Stephen Farrell

kits, which are a small part of the sales and should be much cheaper than the adult kits. There should be competition."

Sales of replica kits provide one of the largest sources of merchandising income for football clubs. Current guidelines urge clubs not to change their kit more than once every two years, but revenue is maximised by their having several different home and away strips, costing more than £70 each. Last year Manchester United issued a fourth strip for its players to wear in the Champions' League, with replicas costing £80 for an adult and £63 for children.

The OFT confirmed that complaints about sportswear represented a disproportionate number of allegations of price-fixing. Last year it won assurances from the manufacturers Puma and Asics that they would not breach the

rules after complaints from one shopkeeper that his supplies of Leeds United shirts were cut when he sold them at a discount. The office is also investigating complaints involving Coventry City.

Several clubs last night said there was no one available for comment. But a Liverpool spokesman said: "The Office of Fair Trading has been in contact with us and we have supplied them with the information requested."

The complaints date back several years. In 1995 the Consumers' Association found that Manchester United charged the highest prices for replica first-team shirts, at £36.99 for the club's sixth new kit in three seasons. The average among Premier League clubs was £33, and the cheapest Queens Park Rangers at £29. With full strips, Chelsea charged the most, asking £49.48 for a child's kit against an average of £45.

Replica shirts are one of the largest sectors of the £1.6 billion sports and leisurewear market, which is expected to grow by 20 per cent before the millennium. Manchester United earns the most from shirt sales. Last year the club achieved record £27 million profits from merchandising. Clubs are believed to earn around £10 for each shirt sold, on top of retainers from the manufacturers. Last year Manchester United sold more than 500,000 strips under its deal with Umbro. More than half its £75 million turnover is believed to come from merchandising.

A spokesman for Adidas UK said last night: "Our aim is to achieve the best value for a quality product for the fans. There is a recommended retail price which is offered to the retailer. We are not aware of any clubs forcing retailers to have any set prices."

The Football Association is currently renegotiating England's deal with Umbro, negotiated in 1993 for £15 million over six years. The new deal is expected to be worth more than £12 million a year.

A Premiership spokesman said: "We are aware of the fact that the OFT has written to the clubs. We will be discussing it with the clubs in due course."

Football, pages 49, 52



A cloned calf called Mr Jefferson, from the same scientific stable that produced Dolly the sheep. Unlike her, the calf was cloned from foetal rather than adult cells, a technique that has been used before (Nigel Hawkes writes). Mr Jefferson confirms that cloning methods apply to other species besides sheep. Julian Day, of PPL Therapeutics, which is based at Edinburgh, said: "The technique used was

## Calf cloned by team that created Dolly

similar to that used to produce Dolly. While the calf is not transgenic, this success now opens the way to producing transgenic

species besides sheep. Julian Day, of PPL Therapeutics, which is based at Edinburgh, said: "The technique used was

## Animals go 'live' for Dr Dolittle

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TECHNOLOGY that creates "real" animals will enable *Doctor Dolittle* to be staged live for the first time in London this summer.

The two-headed beast Pushmi-Pullyu, Gub-Gub the pig and the Great Pink Sea Snail will be among 95 creatures brought to life in a £4 million production at the Labatt's Apollo in Hammer-

smith. Phillip Schofield will play the doctor who talks to the animals, the role made famous by Rex Harrison in the 1967 Oscar-winning film.

The production, based on Hugh Lofting's classic story and directed by Steven Pimlott, has been made pos-

sible by Jim Henson's Creature Shop, the experts in "animatronics" — the art of bringing inanimate objects to life with computer technology, cable control and puppetry. Creature Shop technology used in films such as *Babe* and *101 Dalmatians* has been extended for their first live stage musical.

Adrian Leggett, the executive producer, has waited two years for such technology to be developed. He said that the creatures had to look realistic, rather than like pantomime horses. "We want people to believe they're real. You ain't seen anything like it."

*Doctor Dolittle* is to open on July 14.

## Injection eases blocked arteries

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have shown that new blood vessels can be grown in the heart to improve the health of patients with blocked arteries.

Injecting a growth factor into the heart caused new blood vessels to be formed, bypassing the blockages. The technique has been tested in 20 patients — 14 men and six women — and all are alive up to three years after the treatment, report Thomas-Joseph Stegmann, of the Fulda Medical Centre in Fulda, Germany, and colleagues, in the journal *Circulation*.

Measurements also show that the injections improved the heart's pumping efficiency and that a network of fine

blood vessels had formed, easing the pressure on the arteries. No blockages formed in these new vessels.

The injections consisted of a growth factor called bFGF-1, which is responsible for stimulating the growth of blood vessels. In the womb, the foetus is able to generate a complete set of blood vessels, but this ability is largely lost in adults.

The team says that the procedure may be beneficial to patients whose blockages cannot easily be bypassed in a conventional operation. But it is not yet seen as an alternative to bypass operations.

Body and Mind, page 18

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# Surgeon operated on babies despite high death rate

Doctor exaggerated survival odds, reports Ian Murray

A SURGEON carried on performing hole-in-the-heart operations on children under a year old even though he knew the death rate among his patients was four times higher than the national average, he admitted yesterday.

James Wisheart, 59, told the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council that nine out of the 15 babies on whom he operated — 60 per cent — died at a time when the mortality rate in the official cardiac surgical register was 15 per cent. Mr Wisheart said he gave up the operations at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in 1994 when he knew a specialist surgeon was to be appointed.

"Obviously, with hindsight, one deeply regrets the course of events that resulted in my meeting at this hearing," he said. "Most of all, one regrets the fact that a number of these children died."

He said that, except in one or two cases, it was difficult to think that different decisions would have been taken. "It is difficult to say if I should have continued with regard to the factors I have suggested, but a larger number had died than anyone would have expected."

"One does not wish people to die. Whether one should simply have bowed to the weight of the figures is clearly a matter of judgment. I can only say to you what I was thinking in good faith, based on the facts."

Mr Wisheart said that, after the consecutive deaths of two

babies under a year old, he thought deeply before deciding to go ahead with the next operation in August 1993. Because he thought his results were not as good as those in the register, he told the parents the likely death rate from the operation was 25 per cent, or 10 per cent higher than the average. The baby died.

It was impossible in the immediate aftermath of some deaths to know what additional contributory factors there were, he said. Some did not become clear until after a post-mortem examination and information about some of the deaths came to light only during the past year.

After seven of the first nine babies on whom he operated died, "my assessment was that there was a discrepancy between the number of children who had died and the number anticipated, but I thought that discrepancy was relatively

small." That was why he thought he could go on operating. He carried out his last two operations in 1994; both babies died.

Mr Wisheart said the infirmary decided to start a programme of "switch" operations — where the two main arteries are transposed — despite knowing that other centres had experienced "very poor results". In October 1989, he told his colleague, Janardan Dhasmana, 58, to carry out all these "demanding" operations.

Nine out of 13 babies aged under 28 days on whom Mr Dhasmana operated between January 1992 and January 1995, including the first five, died.

Mr Wisheart said it was "general knowledge" that other centres had suffered a large number of fatalities in the early stages and that there was a "learning curve". There had been clinical meetings after the deaths of the first five, but it was decided the operations should continue. There had, however, been "a disproportionate number of risk factors" that were not known before the operations.

Mr Wisheart and Mr Dhasmana deny charges that they continued paediatric heart surgery despite warnings that the mortality rate was unacceptably high. John Roylance, 67, district general manager at the infirmary, denies failing to act quickly enough to stop the operations. The hearing continues.



Wisheart: he regretted the course of events



Two creations by the Irish knitwear designer Lainey Keogh and, right, a dress by Sonja Nuttall at London Fashion Week yesterday

## Irish designer weaves Eastern magic

BY GRACE BRADBERRY

LAINEY KEOGH, Ireland's spinner of dreams, created an Eastern fantasy of gold threads and precious stones at her autumn to winter show for London Fashion Week yesterday.

If the Pre-Raphaelites had taken a trip to Istanbul, this is what they would have painted — women with gold leaves in their hair and heavy

plaits gliding through an imaginary souk. The 40-year-old knitwear designer, famed for her gossamer-light knits, had woven long chenille gowns with wide, jewel-coloured belts of silken threads.

The model Jodie Kidd wore a blue veil trailing over a blue mesh dress and gold slip, while Honor Fraser did a star turn in a Lady Godiva number — gold threads spun into a tiny

backless dress with only a coil of yarn to preserve her modesty. Sophie Dahl, a star of Keogh's previous two London shows, drew cheers in a red crocheted dress and chenille opera coat.

It takes Keogh's 15 handknitters about a month each to make a sweater and considerably longer to create the quilted cashmere coats that are the designer's trademark. Very few pieces sell for less than £1,000 and

buyers have included Jackie Onassis, Demi Moore and Elizabeth Taylor.

Earlier, the designer Sonja Nuttall chose a church in Notting Hill, West London, for her show. Nuttall, the mistress of monochrome, produced a series of black wool dresses with occasional rows of sequins. Later she branched out into colour with blue and red screenprint flowers scattered across black silk dresses.

# Reggie Kray to remain in jail after 30-year sentence is up

BY RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE gangland killer Reginald Kray is to remain in jail for several more years, despite psychiatric reports suggesting he is fit to be released in May after serving 30 years.

The Parole Board is due to consider his case within the next few weeks, but will not recommend that the 64-year-old gangster be released

immediately. Even if it did, the final decision rests with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who must also take into account the wider issue of maintaining public confidence in the criminal justice system.

Kray and his twin brother, Ronnie, were convicted in 1969 for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie and given mandatory life sentences with a recommendation that they serve a minimum of 30 years for

"retribution and deterrence". Ronnie Kray died of a heart attack in jail in 1995; Reggie Kray's tariff will have been completed on May 9, as he was arrested in 1968.

The Parole Board can recommend that he should or should not be released, or that he be transferred to an open prison. It is not expected to recommend his immediate release, as almost all prisoners who have served such a long period in jail

must first spend some years in open conditions in preparation for the day they are eventually freed.

Kray has already been transferred from Maidstone jail, a Category B prison, to the Category C Wayland jail in Norfolk.

A spokesman for the Prison Service said: "Life-serving prisoners are only ever released from an open prison, and we would expect a prisoner to have been at an open

prison for a number of years before he was released — a minimum of two. Reggie Kray has only recently been transferred from a category B prison to a category C. An open prison would be category D, so nothing is going to happen overnight."

In usual circumstances, Kray's case would come up for review about two to three years before the expiry of his sentence. A dossier

including reports from psychiatrists, prison staff and probation officers has been prepared for the formal Parole Board hearing this spring. A report in the dossier says there is no reason why Kray should not be released. However, others within the Prison Service are not convinced that Kray has fully addressed his offending behaviour and remain unconvinced about his expressed regrets.



Reggie Kray: murderer

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### Police on track of big cat sightings

BY GILLIAN HARRIS

THE growing number of big cat sightings in Britain will be discussed for the first time tomorrow by a conference of more than 60 high-ranking police officers.

Delegates from Scotland's eight forces will be told how to deal with reported sightings of the mysterious animals by Hans Kruuk, who has studied large mammals for many years. Dr Kruuk, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Aberdeenshire, is sceptical about the possibility of big cats roaming the countryside but thinks each reported sighting should be taken seriously.

In his talk at Tulliallan Castle, Kincardine, Fif, Dr Kruuk will teach police officers how to verify sightings by the size of the animal and its tracks. In Scotland many turn out to be wild cats, which are slightly larger than domestic cats. He will also explain how dogs can be used to chase the animals into trees where they can be sedated with a tranquilliser gun.

In Scotland there have been more than 1,000 reports to the police of sightings of big cats over the past 20 years.

## Black Marine too late to sue for racial harassment

Michael Horsnell on a recruit 'bullied and ridiculed'

A BLACK recruit who fled the Royal Marines after claiming a campaign of racist bullying was yesterday denied the opportunity to sue the Ministry of Defence for £750,000.

Mark Parchment, 29, claimed he was ordered to carry a 4ft spear on parade and was subjected to racist initiation ceremonies that included a mock crucifixion.

He is expected to appeal after Deputy Judge John Griffith Williams, QC, ruled in the High Court that he had left it too late to launch his action. The judge said that while he had the discretion to allow a claim out of time, he did not consider that he should exercise that discretion in this case.

He added: "If the plaintiff is telling the truth, then he was treated appallingly and clearly disadvantaged in the circumstances in which he was required to carry out his training and military duties."

He told Mr Parchment that his allegations amounted to "unlawful racial discrimina-

tion" against which he could have mounted a claim if he had done so in time.

The court was told at an earlier hearing that Mr Parchment, from West London, went absent without leave in May 1989 and spent years effectively on the run in France, Belgium and America before being arrested by police in 1994 during a routine identity check. He was returned to 45 Commando in Arbroath, from where he had fled, and discharged.

Mr Parchment told the court that a recruitment officer had warned him before he signed up for training in Lympstone, Devon, in 1988 that his colour was going to "cause him trouble". Martin Deehl, a psychiatrist, said Mr Parchment was suffering from a major depressive illness, had suffered a profound change of personality and was chronically lacking in confidence and self-esteem.

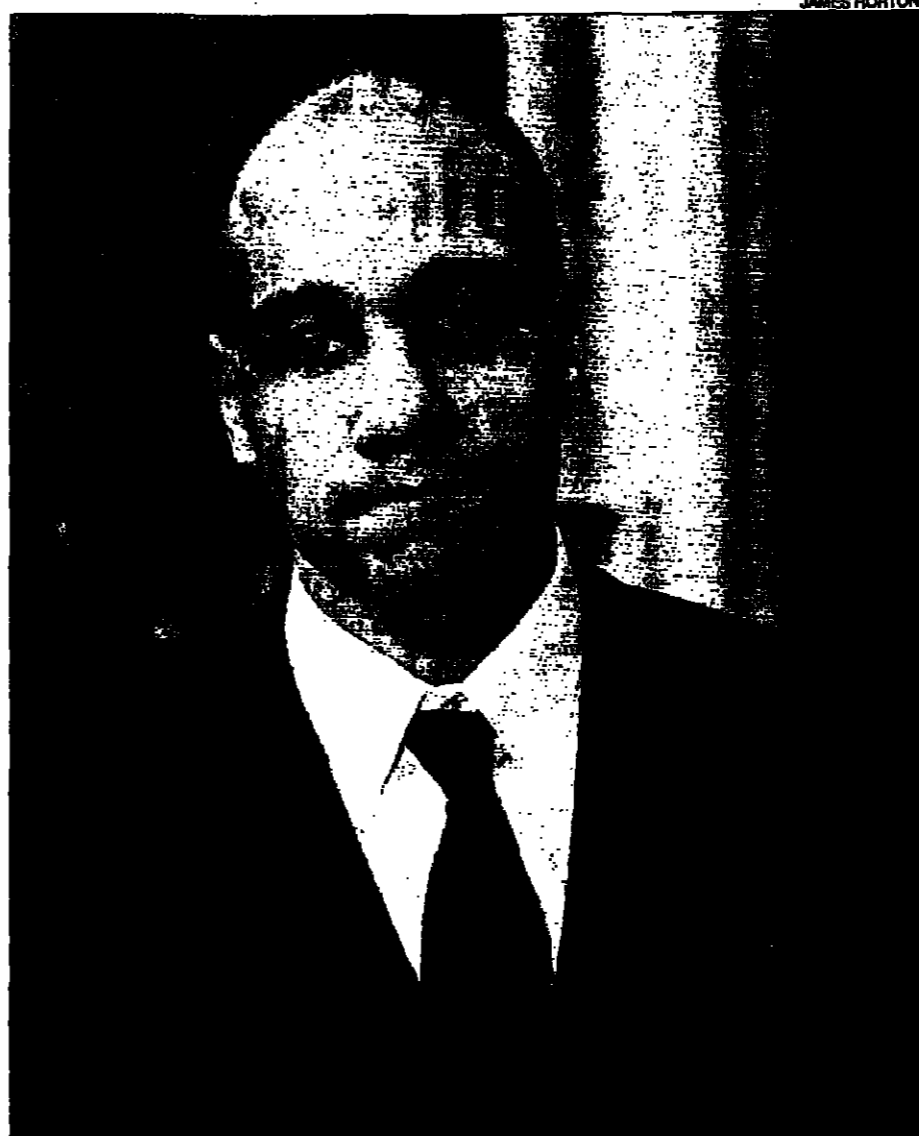
Mr Parchment said after the hearing: "I do not consider the

judgment paints the full picture. It has been purely about the legality of the matter and the time limitation. The judge has not looked at the case from my perspective and what happened to me at all."

John Mackenzie, his solicitor, said that an appeal against the judgment was likely and that, if that failed, the case could go to the European Court. He said the case "shows the major inadequacies of the limitation rules".

Mr Parchment alleges that during the initiation ceremony which took place after he had been posted to Arbroath, he was attacked by a gang of Marines with scissors and a razor who cut away lumps of hair and skin from his head and shaved his pubic hair. They also threw a bucket of urine onto his bed.

He claims that on another occasion he was "crucified" in a hut by having his arms bound to roof beams with industrial tape and was left to hang there unsupported.



Mark Parchment said the High Court judgment "did not paint the full picture"

### Homeless must quit cardboard city

BY MARK HENDERSON

LONDON'S "cardboard city" of homeless people near Waterloo station, is to be broken up at the end of next month after Lambeth council won a court order yesterday compelling its residents to move out of their makeshift shelters.

The High Court awarded the council vacant possession of the Bullring site, which has been occupied by the homeless since the 1970s, after objections from eight residents were rejected. Lambeth and local housing charities have pledged to find temporary accommodation for all the 35 or so homeless people who regularly sleep there.

The Bullring, which was home to more than 200 people in the mid-1980s, will then be boarded up before it is redeveloped. Building work on the British Film Institute's new cinema has started alongside the site and Lambeth council hopes the project will lead to wider regeneration.

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### Rail companies 'have withheld crash papers'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS acting for victims of the Southall train crash and their relatives accused rail managers yesterday of withholding important documents.

On the eve of today's opening of the public inquiry into the crash in September last year, in which seven passengers died, solicitors demanded access to papers that they claim are crucial to bringing compensation claims.

The inquiry will be adjourned almost immediately, pending possible legal action against companies involved and the driver of the inter-city passenger train that crashed into a freight train. The inquiry, which may be the first to be televised, may not reopen until next year.

However, lawyers say the rail companies involved should not use the possible prosecutions as an excuse to withhold documents. "The need for information by the victims must be given prime importance," said Andrew Harding, of the Cardiff-based law firm Hugh James.

Mark Harvey, of the Swansea law firm Smith Llewelyn,

added: "Without full knowledge of the circumstances that led to the collision, we will not know who best to call to give evidence." Railtrack and Great Western trains, the two companies at the centre of the incident, said that they had complied with the rules of the inquiry and denied withholding documents.

The accident happened when a Great Western train from Swansea to London collided with an empty freight train. More than 150 people on the express were injured. It is known that the Great Western train's automatic warning system was not working. A more sophisticated automatic train protection system is believed to have been fitted to the express, but it is thought that it was switched off. "We will be demanding to know why the train had not been taken out of service," said Mr Harding.

Larry Harrison, the driver of the Swansea-to-London express, is on police bail, but has not been charged with any offence. He has not worked for Great Western since the accident.

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# Keeping fields green will cost, says Prescott

### Polly Newton on the plan to build more housing on derelict urban land

GOVERNMENT plans to build more housing in urban areas rather than on greenfield sites could lead to higher costs for the taxpayer, John Prescott said yesterday.

In a statement to the Commons, the Deputy Prime Minister confirmed that the percentage of new properties to be built on derelict sites would rise from 50 per cent to 60 per cent. But he said that the decision had "implications for public expenditure".

Asked by the former Local Government Minister David Curry whether the policy would increase costs because of the need to clean up urban sites, Mr Prescott said: "We will have to make a judgment about that later."

He said there was a danger that the owners of urban sites would hold onto them in expectation of increased demand. "I do worry to a certain

extent that extra pressure put on recycled land will have the effect of putting up land prices."

Mr Prescott said that, wherever possible, recycled land in urban areas should be used before greenfield sites for new housing "provided it can be well linked to public transport, jobs, shops and other facilities".

He said that, in future, local authorities would be expected to assess the availability of recycled land and set regional targets for its use. "This has never been done before and it is an important change."

Mr Prescott confirmed that Lord Rogers of Riverside, the Labour peer and architect of the Millennium Dome, would lead a task force looking for suitable brownfield development sites.

Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Environment Secre-

tary, accused the Government of a "major U-turn".

He said: "We have campaigned against development in the countryside and the green belt and for the maximum use of brownfield sites and recycled land. The Government this afternoon have accepted our arguments but both we and the public will need to be convinced that their words will be followed by action."

Mr Prescott refused to accept that counties that had already identified greenfield sites for housing development should be allowed to rethink their plans.

The former Chancellor Kenneth Clarke said that there were already plans to develop countryside in south Nottinghamshire instead of brownfield sites in former mining areas that needed rejuvenation. "It cannot be right for one

policy to apply in some counties and the new policy to be applied in others."

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, attacked Mr Prescott's decision to approve the development of 10,000 homes on green belt land in his constituency of Hitchin and Harpenden. "This is the biggest incursion in the green belt since any MP has been in this place. Do you not see that the whole country will see this as a test of whether you have simply changed your rhetoric or changed your policy?"

Friends of the Earth said that yesterday's announcement contained "little to prove that the countryside is safe in Labour's hands". The pressure group called on the Government to set a target of 75 per cent for the proportion of new housing built on brownfield sites.

Fiona Reynolds, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, called Mr Prescott's announcement "a welcome push in the right direction" but agreed with the Friends of the Earth call. "The benefits of urban renewal for both town and country means that a 60 per cent target should only be a stepping-stone towards 75 per cent of future homes being provided on brownfield sites."

A spokesman for the House Builders' Federation said that many urban sites were impossible to develop because of planning restrictions, financial constraints or local objections. "We hope that Lord Rogers will be given sufficient powers to address these problems."

Leading article, page 21



By PAUL WILKINSON

A COUNTRY vicar is taking Sunday off to join parishioners at the pro-hunting Countryside March in London this weekend. The Rev Toddy Hoare, above, who likes to shoot and fish and hunts when he can borrow a horse, will miss three services but will hold an extra Evensong on Saturday night. He says that virtually all of his flock, in 12 parishes around Thirsk in North Yorkshire, support him, but one person has threatened to leave in protest. Mr Hoare, a

## Vicar takes Sunday off to join hunt marchers

former soldier and an accomplished sculptor, has courted controversy before. In 1995 he fashioned for one of his churches panels of the Apostles and Mary Magdalene as nudes. Now he says he has made a "once in a

ministry" decision to stand by parishioners who have contributed to church funds even if they are not regular attenders. He has recently written a book about the psychology of hunting, *The Wagging Tail*, and has no qualms about opposing the attempt now going through Parliament to ban the sport. "Nature is red in tooth and claw," he said. "The cleanest and noblest death a fox can experience is from a hound. If the country is not to be dictated to by urban people we have to stand up and be counted."

## Well-off flee the suburbs

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

WELL-OFF suburban residents seeking the rural good life, rather than refugees from decaying inner cities, are leading the flight to the countryside, according to a study of population movements.

The outflow of people from the areas of Greater London with the highest crime and pollution is far lower than from more affluent suburbs where the quality of housing is much better. These findings are in a report commissioned by the Council for the Protection of Rural England from the Department of Geography

at the University of Newcastle. The research suggests that making inner cities more attractive places to live in would do little to reduce the number of people moving to the countryside.

Using figures for population movements in the 12 months before the 1991 census, the report estimates that Greater London and the six other metropolitan counties of England and Wales suffer a net loss of 71,460 people a year, or about 1,500 a week, because of town-to-country migration. London suburbs, such as Hill-

ingdon, Sutton and Richmond-upon-Thames, have the some of the biggest outflows.

Tony Champion, who led the research team, said: "The message seems to be that the richer you are, the more chances you have of moving into the countryside."

However, the report also says that the outflow of people to the countryside is offset by higher urban birth rates and the tendency of immigrants to settle in cities, so that the population of London is growing faster than the national average.

# The Dome is a distraction from what London needs most

TONY BLAIR has far, far more important things to do than to spend his time this morning promoting the Millennium Dome. It is a second, even third, order issue which neither intrinsically matters nor will do the Government much good politically.

The Dome has become one

of those stories that attract an extraordinary amount of attention, like those about Diana, Princess of Wales; the Spice Girls; Mohamed Al Fayed; or the Lord Chancellor's taste in pictures. It is strange that politicians with such a sure touch as Mr Blair and, above all, Peter

Mandelson have become so identified with the Dome. All you need to know about the project is that Michael Heseltine is an enthusiastic supporter. He epitomises the "Think Big", monumentalist school of politics, the grand gesture rather than the incremental improvement. There is

RIDDELL

ON POLITICS

a case for some spectacular event to mark the new millennium. Ministers may be right that the current criticisms will be forgotten if the Dome is a success. It could symbolise the "Cool Britannia"/new Britain

found that Labour wants to foster before the next election.

My doubts are not about the Dome as such — though a lot could go wrong, especially if the Jubilee line extension is not open in time. The Dome could seize the public imagination like the Festival of Britain did under Mr Mandelson's grandfather, Herbert Morrison. Nor is the amount of public money involved the main objection since it comes from the National Lottery (that most misguided of 1990s innovations).

But even if successful, the Dome will be no more than a temporary diversion, an enjoyable day out at most. It is neither an election winner, as Mr Mandelson's grandfather

discovered in 1951, nor will it change many votes.

What would really do the Government good in the eyes of most Londoners would be evidence of some improvement in the Underground. The Tories' failure to produce a long-term plan until far too late was an underappreciated reason for the party's rout in the capital on May 1. The Northern Line is carved on the electoral tombstones of many former Tory MPs. The Government is edging towards an announcement early next month about a public-private sector partnership once John Prescott has resolved his arguments with the Treasury. But for most of us commuters, whether the Underground remains in the public sector is secondary to whether the present delays,

over-crowding and breakdowns are ended.

Also more important than the Dome is the future of the Channel Tunnel rail link. The current mess is no fault of the present Government. But there is now a danger of ending up with an unsatisfactory half-way house in which the high-speed link ends up in Kent, rather than in central London, and without a connection to the North. This also threatens the long overdue regeneration of the blighted 100-acre King's Cross and St Pancras site, which could be turned into a mixed hotel, shopping, office and residential development. Also affected are the plans of BAA and Marriott to turn the Victorian masterpiece of St Pancras Chambers back into a hotel and flats. Richard Arthur, the

leader of Camden Council, which stands to lose £300 million from a failure to build the link, has talked about creating a "New Quarter of London". King's Cross may be less glamorous in the eyes of new Labour than the Dome site in Greenwich, but it could attract many more Londoners.

These arguments over the Underground and the Channel link also reinforce the case for a spokesman for the whole of London, such as an elected mayor. The Dome is a politically irrelevant distraction from the real concerns of Londoners. There are many more pressing issues where Mr Mandelson's talents as a political fixer would be better used.

PETER RIDDELL

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# Archaeologists put a price on the past

### Competitive tendering threatens to force local teams out of a £35m market, reports Nigel Hawkes

LOCAL historical knowledge is being lost because of a price war among archaeologists, it was claimed yesterday. Developers were accused of hiring cheaper archaeologists from outside areas, who then failed to publish their discoveries through local talks and booklets. Council archaeology teams said that the trend prevented them from using their local expertise and could result in their going out of business.

Keith Wade, archaeological services manager for Suffolk County Council, said that developers were obliged by law to commission studies of their sites before building and were increasingly going for the cheapest tender. He was angry that an important Saxon site in Suffolk was being investigated by a team from Cambridge University, which put in a lower tender than the county's own archaeology unit. He said that the existence of local authority units could be under threat.

"We know very well that developers get tenders and then pass them to other units, saying 'Can you beat that?'" he said. "You can't blame them — they're in business, and they are entitled to get the lowest quote they can."

"The problem is that the local units have the expertise, and we report back to local people. We give talks and

lectures and publish our findings. Local people have the opportunity to get involved. But when you get someone in from outside to excavate, they don't hang around or do any of that. We don't want a load of reports which nobody ever sees — that defeats the whole object of the exercise."

The Department of the Environment ruled in 1990 that developers should pay for digs if their sites covered interesting archaeology. English Heritage estimates that the ruling is worth £35 million a year to archaeologists, providing hundreds of jobs and enabling many local archaeological trusts to become self-supporting businesses.

Richard Morris, director of the Council for British Archaeology, said that cost was often a leading factor in deciding contracts. "There are concerns that, in some cases, corners are cut to the point where quality goes out of the window."

"There is also a danger of eroding the local basis of archaeology, which has implications for public understanding and for building up knowledge of an area. Archaeology is not just academic site clearance — it's about knowledge and explanation."

The Suffolk site is at Carlton Colville, near Lowestoft, where Bovis Homes is building. The site is close to a



Marc Berger, of Cambridge Archaeological Unit, plotting the site at Carlton Colville, Suffolk. The county's own team wanted the job

Saxon cemetery where jewellery was found in an 18th-century excavation. Mr Wade said: "This is an important site because so few Anglo-Saxon developments have been excavated in eastern England. We are disappointed that we did not get the job, but this is happening increas-

ingly. The developers simply go on price."

Geoff Wainwright, Chief Archaeologist at English Heritage, said that the trend was "the price we have to pay for archaeology growing up and maturing". Once archaeology was territorial, with local units carrying out most

of the work in their area. "We now have groups which do work all over the country and do very well for themselves. It's a painful process for archaeologists used to the comfortable territorial traditions of the past."

Assuming that standards were maintained, he did not

consider that there was a problem. "I understand what Keith Wade and people like him are saying, but I don't agree with it. Since 1990, we have created an industry worth £35 million a year."

Alison Dickens, project manager at Cambridge Archaeological Unit, said it was

asked by Bovis to tender. "It looked a marvellous site, so we did. We have done several Saxon sites in Cambridgeshire, so it's an area of history we have an interest in."

The site, roughly a hundred acres, has been uncovered and work will continue for a further two months.

## Church revokes chapel's licence

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, has revoked the licence permitting St Ninian's Church in Whitby to be used for Church of England services after a long dispute with its traditionalist members.

However its "proprietors", successors to 30 churchgoers who paid £50 each for St Ninian's, to be built in 1776, pledged that worship would continue as normal. St Ninian's, as a privately owned proprietary chapel, is outside the parish system and needs a special licence to hold Anglican services.

Since last summer, services for the 20 regular worshippers have been taken by Father John Appleton, a member of the Anglican Catholic Church which broke away from the Church of England over the ordination of women. Len Headlam, 66, a proprietor since 1972, said yesterday: "We don't want women priests. We don't like the clergy they send us and the liberal style of the services."

Father Appleton, 56, said: "The church is open for business as usual and will continue to serve the community."

The Right Rev. Gordon Bates, the Bishop of Whitby, said the licence was revoked because the need for places of Anglican worship had divided in the town. He added: "It proved impossible to come to an understanding with the proprietors of the chapel."

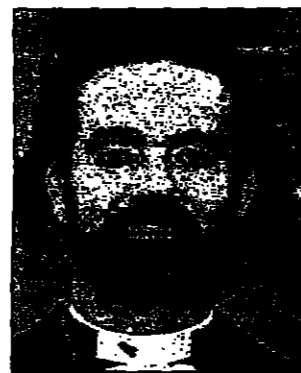
## Bishop attacks shifting morality of politicians

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND PAUL WILKINSON

THE Church of England bishop tipped to become the next Bishop of Liverpool has become the first church leader to condemn the private lives of politicians, citing Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary.

In an article published today, the Right Rev James Jones, Bishop of Hull, questioned how politicians can reasonably expect the electorate to trust and vote for them "when the moral ground on which they stand is slipping away".

Bishop Jones, who also mentions President Clinton in his article in a diocesan newspaper, is the first Anglican leader who has said openly what many have hinted at. Writing in *SeeN*, the York diocesan newspaper, Bishop Jones says morality is not something that can be separated out like an insurance policy, with the house but not the contents covered. "The



Jones: first Anglican leader to speak out

world and what ought to be done to change it."

His mention of the Foreign Secretary and the American President comes when he describes the audience response to a recent *Question Time*, in which the present David Dimbleby, asked if a politician's private life, if any bearing on his post office.

Bishop Jones says: "In that we live in a sequential polygamous society where people enjoy a succession partners, it's easy to see why the television audience was squeamish in passing judgement on the President of the United States and on a Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom."

He says the Church bent over backwards to understand of social life and compassionate to the sinner and victim. "But would be a dereliction of duty if we allowed this silence the prophetic voice of the Gospel."

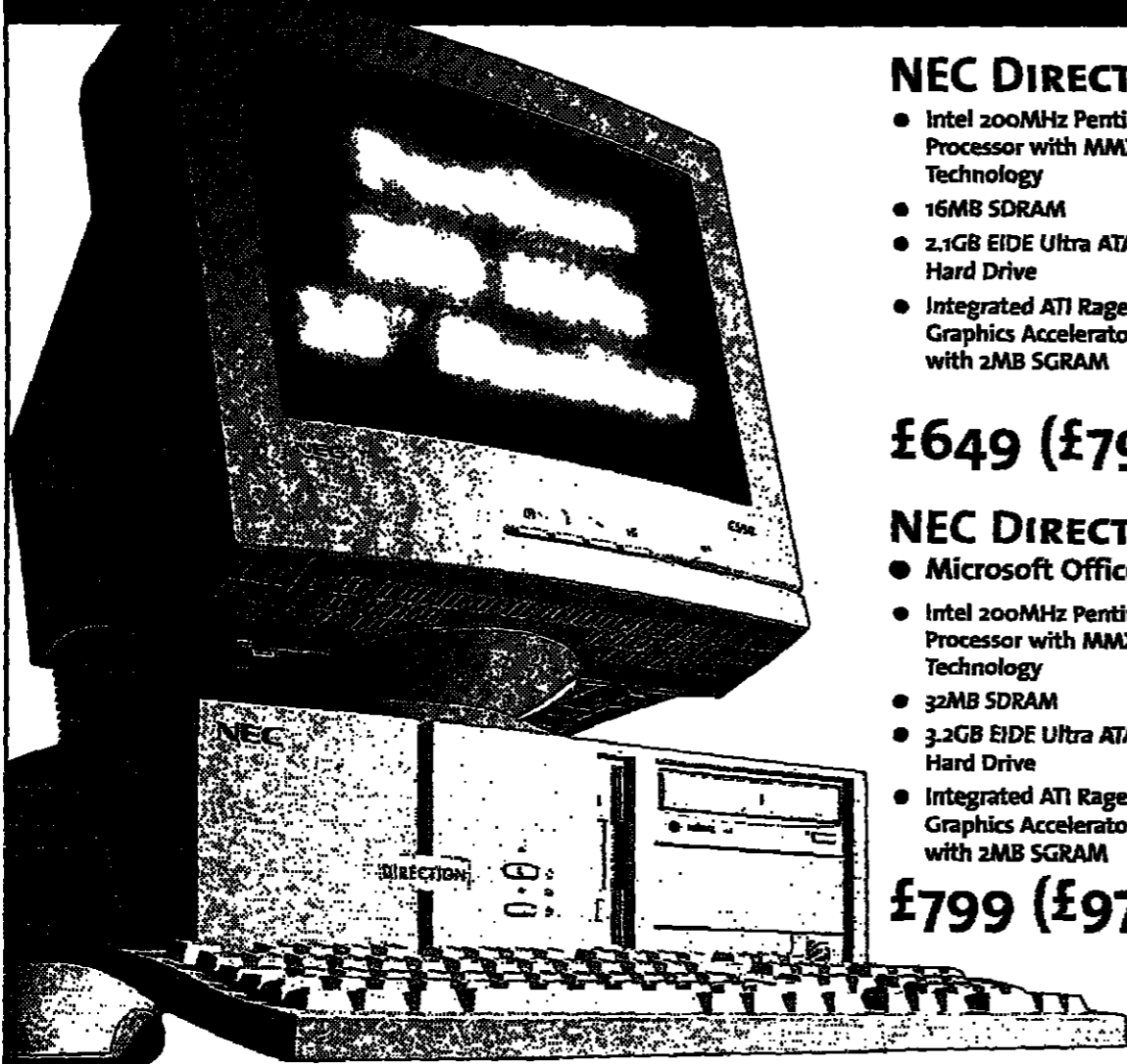
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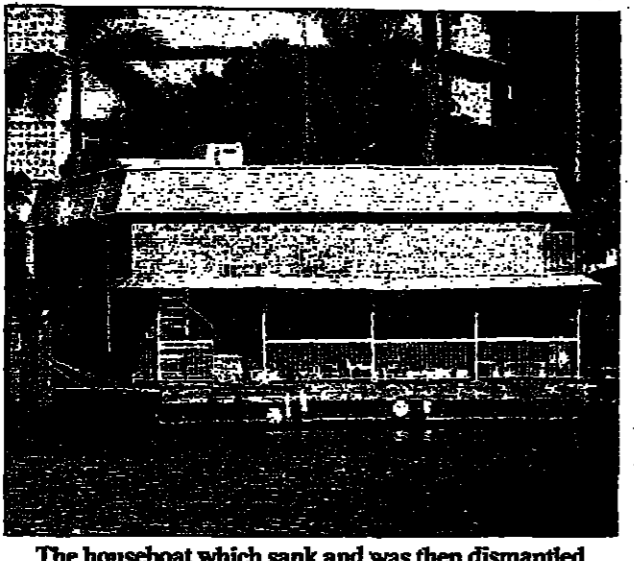
# Briton's murder linked to Ibiza hotel 'swindle'

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A SCHEME to capture control of one of Europe's most exclusive holiday resorts may have been behind the murder in Miami of Anthony Pike, a British businessman, police said yesterday.

Mr Pike, 42, who lived in Sydney, Australia, was shot dead last Monday within hours of landing in Florida from Ibiza. His naked body, bloody and mutilated, was found dumped in scrubland near a beach frequented by homosexuals. Police now believe the body was planted there by the killers to give the impression that Mr Pike had been the victim of a sex crime.

Signor Forti, 39, has been charged with several counts of fraud and theft, including an attempt to force the elder Mr Pike to turn over the title to the property to Signor Forti. Red Rubini, special prosecutor, told a court in Miami last week that Signor Forti was the "prime suspect in the homicide of Anthony Pike."



The houseboat which sank and was then dismantled

# Keeping weather eye open to survive Florida

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

ONE thing you learn quickly when living in Florida is to take the weather seriously. Soon after we moved here five years ago we were badly caught out by Hurricane Andrew.

So, on Sunday morning when thunderstorms were forecast, we did not waste any time currying our long weekend in Disney World. To be honest, after two days we were exhausted and anxious to return home to Miami with our 14-month-old child.



A firefighter inspects tornado damage at a Kissimmee camp site where seven died

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Wife 'shot' husband as he slept

New York: A British nurse is facing the electric chair in Florida after being charged with the murder of her American husband (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Helen Cummings, 32, allegedly confessed to police in Fort Lauderdale that she had shot Tyler Cummings, 30, six times as he slept.

### Indonesian fires 'out of control'

Jakarta: Fires raging in a 150-mile band in the drought-stricken Indonesian province of East Kalimantan are too widespread to put out, the head of a German-funded fire-fighting programme said yesterday.

### Doomsday cult bombers jailed

Tokyo: Two members of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult were jailed for four years for planting a cyanide gas bomb in a Tokyo underground station in 1995.

### Pangolins seized in box at airport

Beijing: Police at Guangzhou airport in southern China arrested a man and a woman after finding a cardboard box holding 28 pangolins and 57 black bear paws.

### Adulthood at 93

Philadelphia: Harvey Persson, 93, has observed his bar mitzvah — the Jewish rite of passage into adulthood.

# Clinton faces grand jury grilling on Lewinsky affair

PRESIDENT CLINTON is expected to be called before a grand jury within weeks and questioned over his alleged affair with Monica Lewinsky as investigators move to target central players in the most embarrassing controversy of his term in office.

## Kenneth Starr is speeding up legal moves to force the embattled President to give evidence under oath, Tom Rhodes reports

of the case. With the Iraqi crisis apparently diminishing, and amid swirling rumours of his alleged sexual relationship with the White House trainee, legal experts are convinced that Mr Clinton must be called sooner than had been expected.

Clinton will attempt to stonewall Mr Starr should he be called. He could invoke executive privilege or take the Fifth Amendment, both of which are considered politically suicidal moves.

Little did we know as we drove past a mobile home park at Kissimmee, just south of the Disney resorts, that three hours later the sleeping victims in their trailers and caravans would be sent flying through the air past the windscreens of those still on the road.

It is one of the busiest periods of the winter months for British operators, with many families heading for the Florida sun during last week's half-term break.

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# Threat of force takes a back seat

Annan's diplomacy gives the Middle East a breathing space, writes Michael Theodorou in Baghdad

Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, left Baghdad yesterday with an agreement that looked certain to prevent a devastating Western attack on Iraq — at least for now.

If his triumph lasts, he will have won a resounding victory for the UN and bolstered a reputation as one of its most successful leaders. If the deal crumbles, he will be seen as another Neville Chamberlain, left holding in his hand a "scrap of paper" promising peace but ultimately leading to war.

He flew out of Baghdad applauded by cheering crowds after signing a "serious, credible" agreement with Iraq on weapons inspections which, he believed, would resolve the crisis. If fully implemented, it would also give Iraq light at the end of the sanctions tunnel, he said.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, who signed for his Government, hailed it as a victory for diplomacy over American and British "sabre-rattling" and brushed aside suggestions that the threat of military action had forced Baghdad into a humiliating climbdown. But Mr Annan acknowledged "firmness and force" had played a role in the success of his mission. He refused to disclose details of the deal before he reports to the Security Council today.

A copy of the document was faxed to the five permanent members of the Security Council to scrutinise for ambiguities that Iraq could exploit.

"First, everyone wants to know what is in the deal, and then we must remember that the proof is in the pudding," said a UN source. The threat of war will remain until there is approval from Washington, which has reserved its right to veto the deal and is certain to maintain its expanded military presence in the Gulf to see if Iraq keeps its word.

"In my view, the terms of this agreement which we have concluded in writing are acceptable and removed a major obstacle to the full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions," said Mr Annan, who addressed a press conference with Mr Aziz. Looking exhausted but relieved after his three-day mission, he added: "I am hopeful that the [Security] Council will accept it."

Then, deftly addressing key concerns of both Washington and Baghdad, he continued: "I can say categorically that there are no time limits or deadlines in the agreement. Having said that, I think it is important that we also work in a reasonable period."

Mr Aziz, dressed in military uniform, put in a prickly performance before some 300 journalists. He bristled when one suggested Iraq had caved in over the inspection of President Saddam Hussein's palaces. "First of all, you don't know what we've agreed and don't jump to conclusions," he snapped. However, from what is known of the deal Iraq appears to have made significant concessions. It has accepted



Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, after signing the arms inspection agreement

face-saving proposals, backed by the Security Council, for "white glove" inspections of the living quarters of the eight presidential sites that were at the heart of the crisis, UN sources close to the negotiations said. Baghdad-based

diplomats would accompany weapons inspectors in order to guarantee the "dignity and sovereignty of Iraq". Mr Annan made clear that the integrity of Unscorn, the United Nations Special Commission on disarming Iraq,

would be maintained despite Iraq's claims it is dominated by America and Britain.

Mr Annan appears to have persuaded Iraq that he will attempt to get Unscorn to complete its work as soon as possible so that, if it is con-

firmed Baghdad has come clean on its weapons, sanctions will be lifted. The UN was determined to "enhance the work of Unscorn and accelerate the process (so that) we will be seeing light at the end of the tunnel", he said.

Mr Annan said chief weapons inspector Richard Butler will probably return to Baghdad on March 2 if the new deal is approved. (AFP)

Lawrence Freedman, page 20  
Leading article, page 21

## Moscow claims credit for averting conflict

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA yesterday wasted little time before claiming some of the credit for the deal between the United Nations and Iraq, insisting that the peaceful settlement was a vindication of its consistent stand against the use of force.

Speaking at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier outside the Kremlin, President Yeltsin hinted broadly that Russia's diplomatic efforts behind the scenes may have paved the way for the agreement signed in Baghdad.

"From the very beginning we were for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. We were against military action because this would not end with Iraq. It would involve a much greater territory, significantly more countries," said the Russian leader.

If the agreement is accepted by the UN Security Council, it will mark an extraordinary

### RUSSIA

comeback for Russian diplomacy and considerably boost the credibility of Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, at the centre of mediation efforts. Last November his intervention in another similar dispute averted the threat of conflict and this time his envoy to Baghdad, Viktor Posovalyuk, may have played a decisive role.

In both standoffs Mr Primakov, an Arabist and former head of Russian intelligence, has emerged with his standing enhanced, unlike his American counterpart, Madeleine Albright, who has been thrown on to the defensive. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, America's dominant role in the Middle East has gone largely unchallenged. That could now change, particularly since Russia appears to have forged an informal alliance with France and China. They have co-ordinated their policies on Iraq and other Security Council issues.

# War machine will stand by to ensure Saddam keeps his word

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

### BRITAIN

BRITAIN is resigned to keeping a large military presence in the Gulf region for months to maintain maximum pressure on President Saddam Hussein.

A British-American strike force is expected to remain for the foreseeable future, with one Royal Navy carrier and two United States carrier battle groups.

HMS *Invincible*, the Royal Navy carrier which has been on continuous operational duty since the

beginning of September and entered the Gulf last month to prepare for possible airstrikes, is due to be replaced by HMS *Illustrious* in two or three weeks. The replacement carrier, which has six Sea Harriers and six RAF Harrier GR7s on board, is expected to be in the Gulf area for at least three months. Even if the agreement on arms inspections signed by Iraq and Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, is accepted by Wash-

ington and London, both countries are resolved to continue the "twin track" policy of diplomatic and military pressure to ensure that Saddam keeps his word.

The eight RAF Tornado GR1 bombers sent to the Ali al-Salem air base in Kuwait and still on standby yesterday for airstrikes, are also likely to stay for months, provided the Kuwaiti Government approves.

The RAF also has six Tornado GR1s in Saudi Arabia, helping to mount the Operation Southern Watch no-fly zone patrols over southern Iraq, and another six

Tornados at Incirlik in Turkey, enforcing the no-fly zone in northern Iraq.

Although the Tornado bombers need to train wherever they are based, there are extra costs from having 20 aircraft in the Middle East, and the bill for supplying the air and ground crews is rising rapidly.

A Ministry of Defence official said: "The additional cost of deploying forces to the Gulf is relatively small and we expect to be able to absorb it. But if the costs rise substantially, the issue of funding

will become a matter for discussion within the Government."

While government officials were cautiously welcoming the apparent climbdown by Saddam over weapons inspections, the consequence of the perceived successful policy of threatening military action was becoming all too clear among the MoD's military planners.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said that, if the reports from Baghdad were confirmed, "that is a very, very significant climbdown by Saddam and a vindication of the policy of diploma-

cy backed up by the threat of force".

However, in a BBC interview he said: "We certainly won't be doing anything about removing our military capability until we are absolutely certain that Saddam will comply."

Even if the deal is ratified by the UN Security Council later today, the 420 RAF servicemen and women operating the eight Tornados in Kuwait said they expected to stay on for at least another three or four months, while Saddam's compliance with the agreement was monitored.

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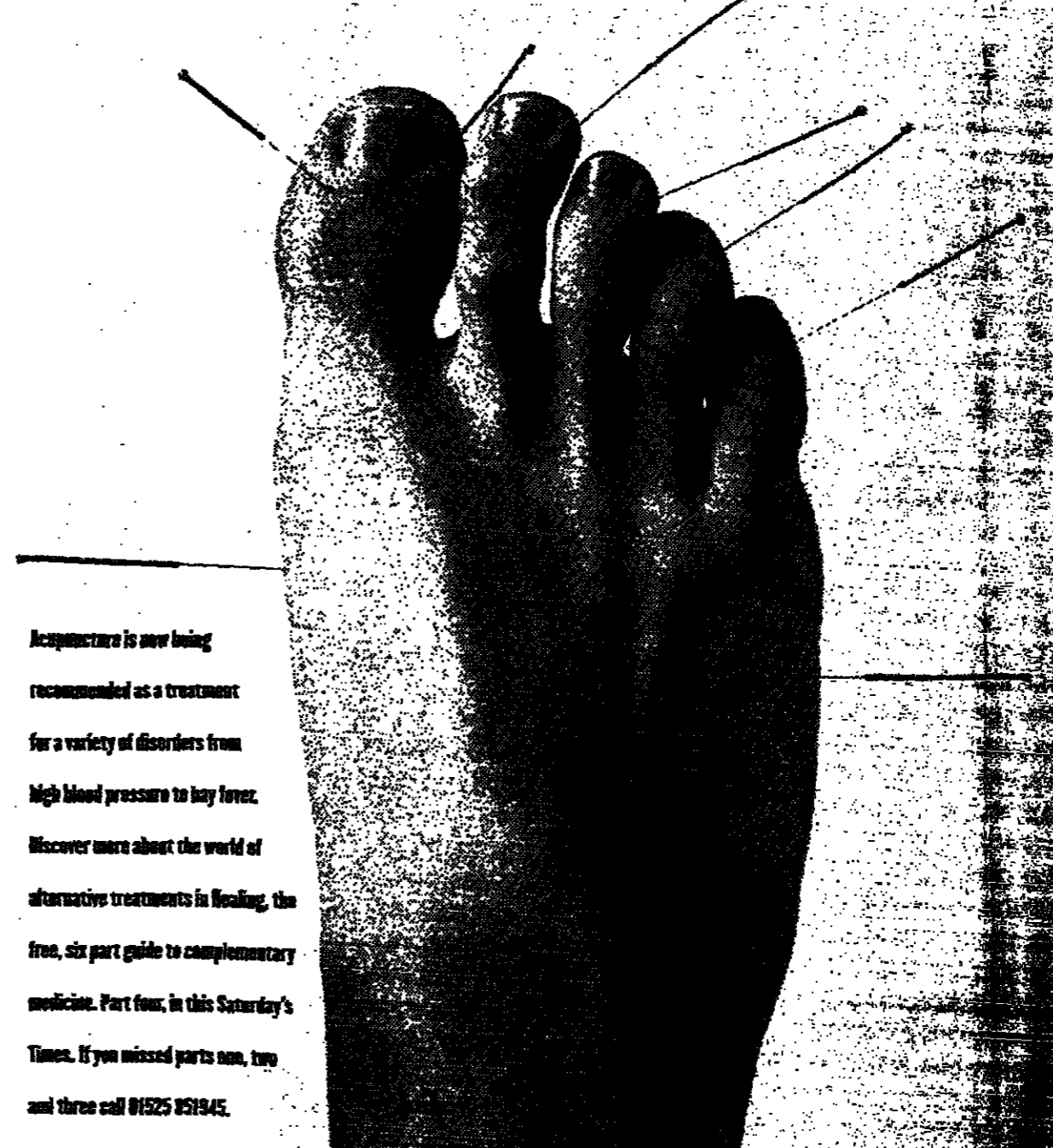
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## THE TIMES

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Moscow claims credit for averting conflict

RUSSIA

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RUSSIA

# Iraqis marvel as Saddam thumbs nose at Clinton

PEDELIANS stopped to salute Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General, as the hooded and small group of shoppers cheered and whistled as he sped past in his motorcade with what is hoped will be a diplomatic solution to the latest Iraqi crisis in his pocket.

He has been the hero of the hour, but yesterday President Saddam Hussein's "cheat retreat" defiance of America again secured him a place of par-Arab nations hero.

An Iraqi government statement, first television told citizens to worry about the "details" of the deal struck with Mr An, which on paper is likely to be a capitulation by Iraq leader in the face of threat of force when Mr An reveals all to the Security Council tomorrow.

Inste Iraqis were told they shd "look at what has been leved". Saddam's achievement has been to thumb-nose at President Clinton and the world's superpo.

Fromza to Bahrain, the million dollars spent by the US, Bri and other allies in sending armada to the Gulf was ses the response to a gigant frank pulled off by Saddam the West's expense.

Forcing permanent members of Security Council to dispatch Annan to Baghdad to Saddam not to risk being theed was, for many Arabs, juster stroke which enhance the prestige of the Iraqi ler and his waning reputas a "statesman".

"He'llled it off again. He's ased as the one Arab leader lef America. They will beaking his name aroundy Beirut campfire and ivery smart Saudi Mercowith respect and admira," said one Iraqi businessn. "It's a very sad day ind when the Ameri-

canis are wrongfooted by such a monster," he added - refusing to give his name for fear of retribution from Saddam's secret police.

Many other ordinary Iraqis, beggared by seven years of harsh economic sanctions that have crippled the economy and health sector, were less critical of their leader since the UN raised the quota of the "oil for food" swap from \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) to \$5.2 billion.

Further hints from Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, that the prospects of sanctions

being lifted altogether were improving fuelled enthusiasm for Saddam in Baghdad. Abdul Karim, who was selling smuggled Turkish cooking oil from a stall on the edge of a slum in the Jamilla suburb, said: "It's a victory for all. For the President first, but for everybody. We have shown we are not going to be pushed around by the Americans."

Last week's pro-Iraqi demonstrations in the Gaza Strip and Jordan, and the bans imposed by both administrations on them, showed the

extent to which Saddam has begun to evolve into an Arab nationalist icon who may become a rallying point for opponents to more moderate governments in the region.

Babel, an Iraqi daily newspaper owned by Uday, Saddam's son, said the deal signed by Mr Annan and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, showed the will of the international community, which rejected war, to be stronger than "the American law of the jungle".

But peace for many Iraqis remains something of a dream. In Jamilla, groups of men discussing the agreement said they feared that the US would reject Mr Annan's deal and attack Iraq soon.

One elderly man said: "The US has called up so many men. It has so many weapons in the Gulf. They are not interested in peace but in attacking our President. He is the only man who stands up to them, so they want to get rid of him. But why are they going to punish us for his actions? The only good news is that our problem with sanctions, which was in the shadows, has now been brought into the light."

Newspapers in Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates voiced similar fears. The Gulf News daily in the UAE said: "It remains to be seen whether Washington will put its war preparations on hold. The US claims that force will be used only as a last resort, but its actions thus far reveal otherwise."



BAGHDAD

It's a very sad day when the Americans are wrongfooted by such a monster

It's a very sad day when the Americans are wrongfooted by such a monster

It's a very sad day when the Americans are wrongfooted by such a monster



Iraqis in Baghdad yesterday celebrate the deal between President Saddam Hussein and Kofi Annan

## 'A settlement condemns future generations to insecurity'

M ANTHONY LOYD

Therehold perhaps be no better examples to the state of the Kuwaition yesterday than that given its army's two most frontliners. Behind them lay a wedge Kuwait bisected by tank traps aminefields, before them

Yet tigh the first Iraqis were just 50 is away, clearly visible beneath that lolled indolently in the art breeze, the Kuwaitis paid theant regard, preferring instead, drink tea, doze and scratch his heat.

"Kofinan bring us peace for

sure," one began, pulling his forage cap down low over his eyes and sinking deeper into his chair. "Now we have no problem with Iraq; no war. Situation the same as before - not good, but no fighting."

Though preparations continue to ready the population for possible retaliatory missile strikes or terrorist attack, motivation has all but evaporated and the lack of concern by soldiers in the desert is reflected in the streets of Kuwait City.

However, beneath the veneer of relief at the developments over the past 24 hours, the mood is one of

anti-climax, even regret. For though the immediate threat has been lifted, this tiny Gulf emirate is again overshadowed by its belligerent Iraqi neighbour and is as reliant on American support for its security as it ever was.

"An agreement might help the world relax, but it would not help Kuwait to relax," said Fatima al-Abdull, Kuwaiti environmentalist and human rights campaigner. "We will not trust President Saddam Hussein. If there is a settlement now, it will merely condemn future generations of our people to confusion and insecurity."

Though Kuwait was a one-time backer of Saddam's Baathist re-

gime, helping to bankroll his eight-year war with Iran with massive cash donations, its confidence in Baghdad was destroyed by Iraq's 1990 invasion.

The seven years that followed Kuwait's liberation have been hulkmarked by mistrust and suspicion, growing border tensions and the constant menace of chemical weaponry. Furthermore, Iraq has consistently refused to divulge the fate of more than 600 Kuwaitis seized as hostages during its occupation.

There is little direct antipathy towards the Iraqi people themselves, but Saddam is reviled. "For years Kuwait was sold the line that

an intact Iraq was preferable for its security than a fragmented one," remarked a senior Western diplomat in Kuwait City. "Now many Kuwaitis are questioning that. An intact Iraq waged war on Iran for eight years, then it invaded Kuwait. It has an aggressive weapons programme and continues to be a threat to the whole region."

"Many leading Kuwaitis were behind the idea of airstrikes. They wanted to throw the cards in the air and see how they fell. The result may not have been better or worse, but at least it would have been different. As things stand now Kuwait remains, as before, caught between the relentless pressure of

two of our unstable neighbours." Last night Crown Prince Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Prime Minister, said the situation needed further study. "We must read what is between the lines [of the Annan agreement]."

Kuwaiti MPs said they doubted whether this was the end of the story. Others said they did not trust Saddam and were sorry the chance had been lost to get rid of him.

Reaction to the deal in the Gulf was restrained. Although all Gulf rulers had called for a diplomatic solution and denounced the use of force, many were privately hoping that an American-led strike would bring Saddam to his knees.

### WORLD REACTION

## US press remains cautious

NEWSPAPERS around the world hailed the deal with Iraq, saying the threat of war had been averted. American papers were more cautious.

### United States

Drama in Baghdad, little applause in Washington - The New York Times US cautiously awaits details

The Washington Post US Takes Cautious Line

Los Angeles Times Oil Demand Distorts Policies in the Gulf

The Wall Street Journal

### Russia

Kofi Annan did everything possible - Izvestia Russian diplomats believe the United States will not dare to use force, at the risk of provoking a negative reaction in the Arab world and among European allies.

Germany

Agreement in Baghdad: has a new Gulf War been averted? - Bild

Annan: on the verge of agreement with Iraq - Siddeutsche Zeitung

Italy

Iraq, the UN's Peace - La Repubblica

Annan favours an agreement with Saddam - Corriere della Sera.

The paper said Saddam had won whether he was "martyred" or proclaimed a hero by Arab masses. But Mr Annan had won, too: if he succeeded it would be the UN which settled all world disputes.

France

Glimmers of hope in the sky over Baghdad - France-Soir

France has consistently defended the idea that a diplomatic solution should be found. Le Monde said.

Israel

Until The Next Crisis - Yediot Aharonot

After stretching the world's nerves, Saddam suddenly cast off his war uniform and put on his suit of peace. He led us by the nose, the paper said.

Arab world

An eminent agreement - Al-Hayat (London)

Mubarak renews appeal to Saddam to implement UN resolutions

Al-Ahram (Egypt)

Lebanon's leading newspaper Al-Nahar noted that people were still holding their breath in fear of US airstrikes on Iraq.

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# Wily women lure voters on campaign trail

### Christopher Thomas in Hyderabad

wives about the high-profile women working their magic on the crowds

POWERFUL women have a legend in India's general election campaign, now entering its final leg. They are loved for corruption, murder, banditry, illiteracy and selfishness — as unsavoury a list of politicians as any man could muster.

Sonia Gandhi, 51, star campaigner for the Congress Party, fits into the last category. She is not a candidate, answers no questions, grants no interviews, expresses no opinion on policy issues and delivers speeches the same speech whenever she goes.

Yet the campaign is over and she returns to her political work enhancing the memory of her assassinated husband, Raj Gandhi, the former Prime Minister. She is keeping the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty alive while trying to polish its tarnished reputation.

Wh few exceptions the pre has been brutal to her, although to everybody's surprise she has been pulling her crowds and giving the Congress Party a much needed lift. *The Statesman's* top columnist wrote: "I respect the lady's capacity for deception and lies, for raw courage in minding them and for the impulsion of innocence she is bravely trying to project."

Then there is J. Jayalalitha, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu — the empress of modern India, who became famous for lavish spending despite an official salary of a rupee a year. A wedding she threw for her adopted son cost the state dearly, as did the penal helicopter she acquired. Her reputation tanked so much a political comeback seemed impossible, but she is dragging the crowds — after 5pm before that it is too hot for it.

Polan Devi, the Bandit Queen, is touring the backwaters of Uttar Pradesh in the Hijr heartland and appealing voters to forgive her for her ruse performance as an elected politician. "Please par-

## INDIAN ELECTIONS

don my failures," she says. "I have been bogged down by my own problems." It hardly seems possible that this short, tubby woman was the terror of high-caste Thakurs, many of whom her gang killed.

The least commanding of the big-name women campaigners is Rabri Devi, Chief Minister of the eastern state of Bihar, who is illiterate, knows nothing about politics and does exactly as her husband, Laloo Prasad Yadav, tells her. He was forced to quit as Chief Minister last year over a corruption scandal, so he put his wife in the job.

Referring to her husband's political symbol, an oil lantern, she declares: "Take the lantern in one hand and a broom in the other and sweep out all the rubbish." With that she is pushed aside for the de facto Chief Minister to address the crowds.

Mayawati, her only name, the Untouchables' leader of Uttar Pradesh, can expect her political party to capture almost every vote of the state's Dalits, the modern name for outcasts. She is responsible for one of the most remarkable political movements in northern India.

For all the presence of high-profile women, the campaign has barely touched on women's rights. Women exercise their greatest power in village *panchayats* (local councils), where a third of seats are reserved for them — the only elected institution that truly echoes the voice of 282 million female voters.

Delhi: India's Hindu nationalist claimed a moral victory yesterday after the Allahabad high court ruled that the Hindu nationalist state government of Uttar Pradesh, a key political state, should not have been dissolved after losing its majority. (AFP)



J. Jayalalitha, left, the Bandit Queen Phoolan Devi, centre, and Sonia Gandhi are pulling the crowds as the election race gathers pace. None are touching on women's rights

## Company fined after overwork suicide

Tokyo: A court in southern Japan ruled yesterday that overwork led to an employee of Kawasaki Steel Corp. to commit suicide, and ordered the company to pay \$2 million (253,000) in compensation to his family. Judge Takashi Hamamoto, of the Okazaki district court, accepted the family's claim that impossible work demands placed on Junichi Watanabe, 39, sent him into a suicidal depression. He

jumped to his death from the sixth floor of the local Kawasaki factory in 1991. Mr Watanabe had averaged five hours of overtime a day, on weekdays and 11 overtime hours a day on holidays for six months before he killed himself, the plaintiffs said. Kawasaki Steel, in a statement, said the company believed there was no relation between the suicide and Mr Watanabe's job. It did not say whether it would appeal. (AFP)

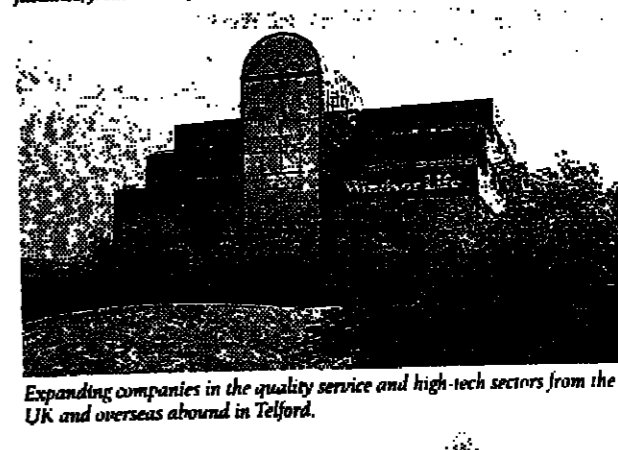
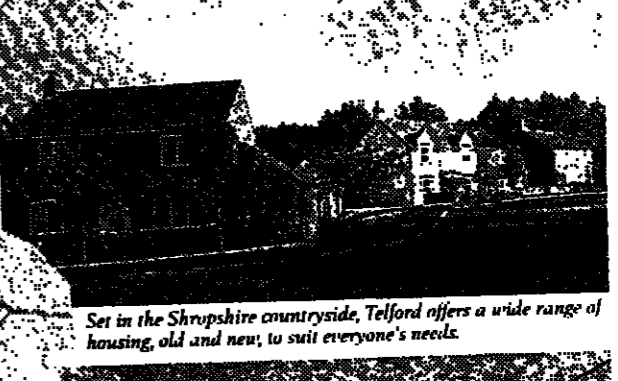
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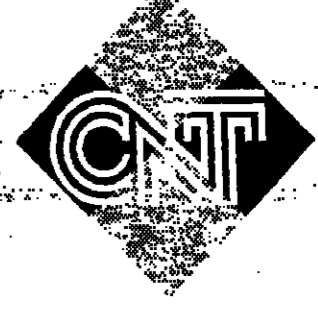
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Thinking outside the box





# Eddie banks on a nation's shopkeepers

Anatole Kaletsky says Thatcher is vindicated by Blair's Governor

Now that Eddie George has been appointed for another five-year term as Governor of the Bank of England, people in Britain should be able to guess roughly what kind of economic policy to expect. My guess is that we should expect a continuation of the kind of economic performance epitomised by yesterday's figures on national output for 1997: a powerful quarterly increase of 1.1 per cent in service activity and consumption, matched by an equally abrupt 1.1 per cent fall in manufacturing and industry. The net effect, because Britain's service industries are so much bigger than the manufacturing sector, was a comfortable, but unspectacular, growth rate of 0.5 per cent for the economy as a whole.

Why should British manufacturing continue to be squeezed, while services and consumption flourish? This, after all, is the opposite of the outcome favoured not only by the Government, but also by Mr George. Yet this pattern of development became inevitable from the very first working day of the new Parliament, when Gordon Brown handed responsibility for monetary policy to Mr George.

### Did Blair set the Bank free to squeeze industry?

To say this is not to disparage Mr George and his colleagues on the Monetary Policy Committee as "inflation nutters". They are trying not to push interest rates higher than they feel is absolutely necessary to take the steam out of a "boomlet" in consumer spending and wages. But even so, a further tightening of monetary policy appears to be on the cards.

My guess is that base rates will rise by another quarter point next Thursday and will then remain unchanged for a surprisingly long time. Indeed, after next week, there may well be no further movements in interest rates for the rest of this year. The result of this unusual stability, which would closely match recent experience in the United States, should be a year or two of slowing economic growth, with perhaps a small increase in unemployment by the autumn. Jobs will continue to be lost in many manufacturing and exporting companies, but the pound will probably remain at around its present level of DM3 if the sharp cuts in interest rates expected by the City in the second half of 1998 fail to materialise.

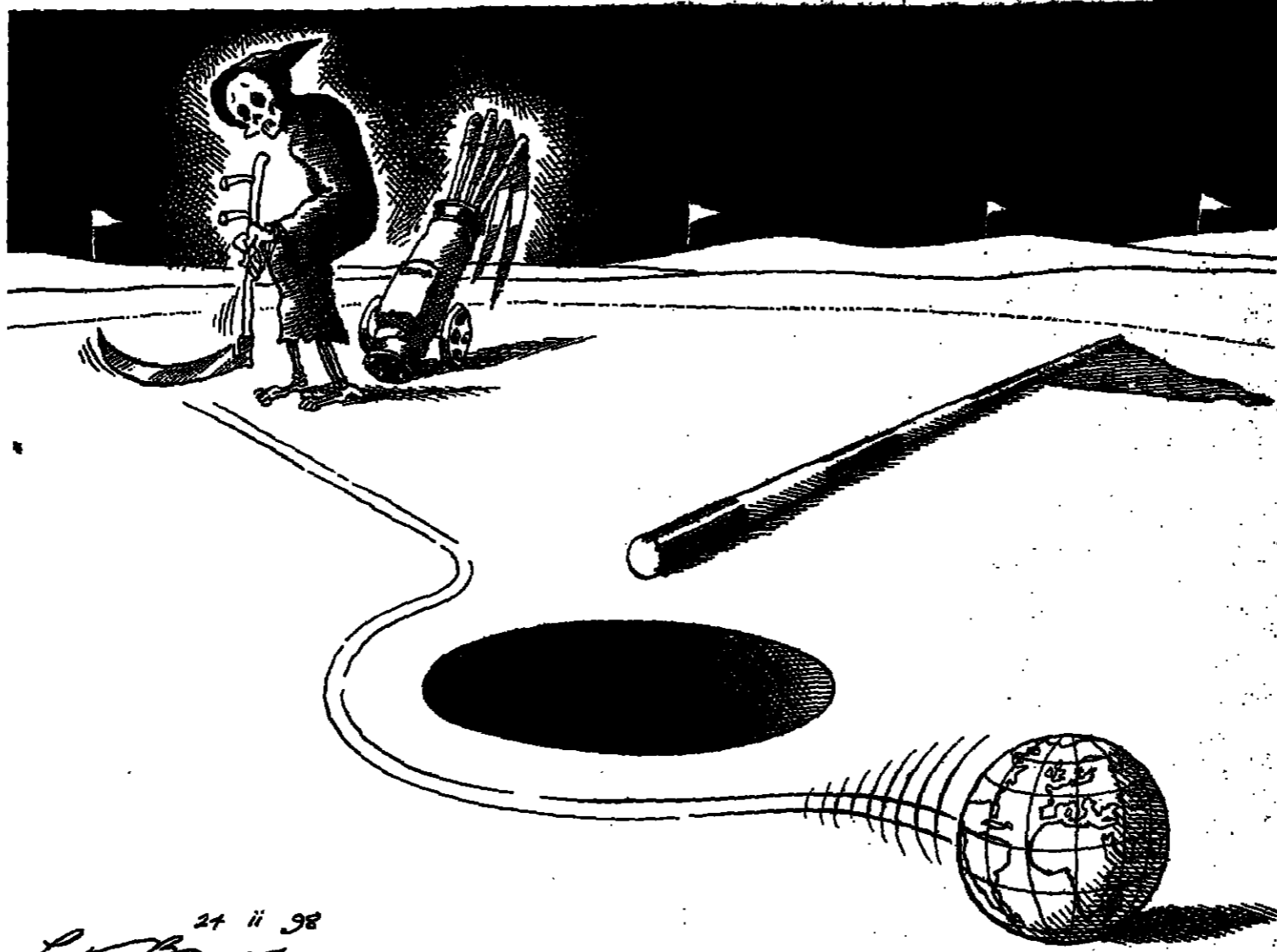
This monetary easing will fail to materialise because the economy as a whole will continue to grow reasonably strongly, even as the manufacturing sector wits. Eventually, after a further shake-out, large parts of the manufacturing sector may learn to live with a strong pound and a tight monetary policy.

The strength of the pound, which has astonished many businessmen and financiers, was a predictable consequence of Labour's decision to hand monetary policy to the Bank. Britain's manufacturers, who unanimously welcomed this decision, will have to recognise that an independent Bank does not have the same flexibility as the Treasury to manage the economy and keep inflation under control. The Bank can use only one instrument — interest rates — and this, along with the upsurge of international confidence in sterling triggered by the Bank's independence, inevitably means that the strong pound is here to stay. Once manufacturers recognise this they will be forced to improve their efficiency to German, French and Italian levels — or go out of business.

In many cases this will mean shedding more labour. For some businesses, it could mean throwing in the towel. If the management of British Steel or ICI decide that some of their divisions cannot compete against Krupp or Bayer, despite wage cuts that are still one-third below the German levels (even at DM3 to the pound), it is hard to see why they should carry on with such businesses. Whether the demise of hopelessly inefficient manufacturing activities proved to be a loss for Britain as a whole would depend on whether workers could be more productively redeployed in other British industries.

By contrast, there should be further growth in industries such as retailing and construction, which are driven by domestic demand, as well as the many research-based and service industries, in which Britain has a competitive advantage and which should continue to sustain the balance of payments. As the European market becomes more integrated, economic theory suggests that Britain should naturally specialise in the things which Britons appear to do best. But economics ignores the social and political consequences of such specialisation. If Britain becomes even more of a service-based and white-collar economy, traditional manufacturing workers will not only have to retain their education and skill since manual work often involves far more training, intelligence and mental concentration than service employment, which may require nothing more intellectually demanding than basic courtesy and common sense. There will always be many people who prefer to use their hands to manipulate inanimate objects, rather than bending their personalities to work as servants for other people. They will have to adopt the bourgeois values of the "service" culture, while accepting the relatively low pay offered by many service jobs.

As they do this, Margaret Thatcher's dream will be fulfilled: Britain will become a middle-class society, with fewer trade unionists, fewer grubby factories and less class war. Perhaps this was part of Tony Blair's hidden agenda when he handed economic responsibility to an independent Bank. In any case, this is what Eddie George is likely to achieve. Even more than today, Britain will become a nation of shopkeepers and shoppers.



# Don't rebrand the royals

The monarchy is too tied up with heritage and identity to be promoted like chocolate

In a warm room, over coffee, people chat about thoughts and feelings. They are pleased to be invited. It is a bit of an event. The nice research lady is listening to them far more intently than their families ever do. They blossom and expand. This is fun. It is the nearest that many of them will ever get to power: more expressive and less serious than the ballot-box. They know that everything they say is being taken down carefully, but that nobody will ever come back and accuse them personally of having talked nonsense or caused trouble. They are even freer from responsibility than newspaper columnists. They are a Focus Group.

These groups, invented as a tool for market research, have become a modern totem, imbued with all the magical diagnostic significance of the village pond and the ducking-stool. The Government spends £1 million a month on them, forever assessing its image like an insecure girl who keeps leaving the dance-floor for the mirror in the Ladies. The BBC founds whole schedules on them. President Clinton, so they say, consults them before even booking his holidays: if they want him to be hunky, he goes and stands next to a waterfall with his shirt off.

Focus results, however, are obscure; you need a witch-doctor to read the entrails. The spin-doctor does not actually dance round a fire with feathers on his legs, but very nearly; he points like a gun, brandishes coloured pens, picks out key words and circles them triumphantly on his sacred flip-chart of office. And now, they say, even the Queen might be hiring one: a "Director of Communications" to act on her focus reports. The usual suspects are being touted: battered former newspaper editors, discredited admen, and "PR experts" whose major triumph so far has been persuading the world that there is such a thing as a "PR expert", and that they are it. The rumour is unconfirmed, so this is the moment to drill holes beneath its waterline. Here goes.

I grant that the Buckingham Palace press office always needs refreshing. It has already changed enormously since twenty years ago, when we feckless infant reporters used to amuse ourselves by ringing it up with trick questions (winner: "Could you confirm that the Duke of Edinburgh is married to the Queen?" — "No, we never comment on the

own instincts — certainly the Queen's. She knows that the present situation is not perfect and made that clear in her speech about "protocol and deference" creating barriers. But a spin-doctor would only create a different kind of barrier: a stage illusion, a sales pitch. PR does not forge honest emotional links. All that we need is to strip away some mouldy old padding from daily history that brought us all here, together, on an island. This applies just as strongly to those whose families came from the remnants of Empire, or sought refuge here as exiles.

At its best monarchy is unity: an unthinking emotional unity. It is therefore its job to unite us for good purposes. Hence the Queen's dogged Christmas messages praising all those who work for peace or against poverty, the community service in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Prince of Wales's long-term alliance

with young people who risk being a focus out of the national family, the Princess Royal's steady charity work and — a more exotic flower from the same root — Diana's hugging of the homeless and the heartbroken. What we need from the Royal Family is an affirmation that altruism, self-sacrifice and faithful kindness are jewels too; that, as George Eliot said, things go better for all of us because of those who live faithfully a hidden life. Nobody has devised a better shorthand for this idea of recognising virtue than the trip to the Palace, the medal, the royal handshake. Yes, it is often abused; that does not make it negligible.

But the PR industry has no truck with unity, simplicity or virtue. It caters for the vagaries of fashion, the snobberies of style, and the fickle frivolity of media. It chatters, when what we need from monarchy is a still small voice of calm. Public relations is the Prince of Wales posing with the Spice Girls; monarchy is the same man, as I watched him the other day at a Prince's Trust conference, interestedly chatting to a pair of young former offenders about their work prospects. The Royal Family should trust its

## Libby Purves

**DIARY**  
SURREAL times for the sturdy oarsmen on the Thames. First a Cambridge four was alarmed by a body floating past; now Imperial College has seen its minibus bobbing by, having been pushed there by vandals. The retrieved bus is fit only for scrap. "Peculiar," says one. "It's like Peter Greenaway's Drowning by Numbers."

**Going, gone**  
TONY O'REILLY, the bullish Irish businessman, has been cosying up to Nelson Mandela. O'Reilly has a

**Down the Tube**  
IT SEEMED like such a jolly publicity stunt: to deck out a Tube train in the colour of the Yellow Pages. At a cost of £500,000, the directory decided to sponsor a Circle Line trundler by painting it, er, yellow, and upholstering seats with material depicting pages of the directory. Then the complaints. The sections marked "therapists" were cut awkwardly — the first three letters were obliterated. Says a spokeswoman: "We were made aware of the problem and had seats re-upholstered within 48 hours." The price? Enough to send Tube chiefs into therapy...

few "interests" in South Africa, and decided to throw a dinner in his honour. O'Reilly's coup de theatre: a charity auction at which the prize exhibit was a £17,000 Waterford Crystal vase engraved with a "sculptured relief" of the President. O'Reilly bought the vase to present to Mandela — who had slipped off — leaving O'Reilly with an extravagant ornament.

**GORDON BROWN** could be showed out of Whitehall. Geoffrey Robinson, his dextrous Paymaster General, has revived talks with a property consortium over a £200 million Treasury renovation. The scheme, creating an hotel and swanky offices, was quickly junked by Brown as a Tory-inspired extravagance. The Treasury would have been relocated to unfashionable Vauxhall for three years, an idea which shocked Brown. Now Stuart Lipton, the fabulously wealthy developer, says Robinson is back in touch: "They're exploring ways of taking it forward again, but the Treasury's not sure how." Perhaps Gordon should watch Geoffrey's imaginative dealings.

**Sleepy beauty**  
NAOMI CAMPBELL'S temper has flared again. She was flying to South Africa with her catwalk



**Flight fury: Moss and Campbell**  
champs Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell decided to film her sleeping. Then she woke mid-shoot. The models objected loudly, demanding the camera be turned off. They calmed down only when the captain emerged from his cockpit and ordered the main to cease his tape.

# An uneasy peace for our time

Lawrence Freedman says we will back the Annan-Saddam pact

The relief following Kofi Annan's successful mission to Baghdad is coupled with unease in Washington and London. They have allowed themselves to appear wrong-footed by events, having expected Mr Annan to return to New York either empty-handed or with a deal for them to scrutinise before it was endorsed. As it is, they were left hoping that the UN Secretary-General had not exceeded his brief nor put his name to some potential loopholes. They were probably irritated that he allowed a signing ceremony and press conference in Baghdad to force their hands. By seeking centre stage with President Saddam Hussein, Mr Annan enhanced the prestige of the Iraqi dictator, and his own. He proved himself a skilful diplomat and wily political operator, using the occasion to gain a degree of independence from the Security Council.

The image of the two men shaking hands may not go down well in America, where the UN's reputation often seems only marginally higher than that of Iraq. Mr Annan may find himself cast in the role of a Chamberlain, believing that the signature of a dictator can bring peace in our time. The image highlights the extent to which "the Saddam problem" has yet to be solved.

Washington and London would be best advised to shy down any such misgivings. The deal appears to be based on an established policy. Saddam has been given a couple of symbolic concessions, not the least of which was obliging the United Nations Secretary-General to pay court to him, and clarification of the relationship between weapons inspections and sanctions. If the allies blocked this deal, they would have to use force in the least propitious circumstances without any guarantee of a better result and at an unavoidable cost of severe political isolation. It would be odd to claim to be acting on the UN's behalf while appearing to be in conflict with the Secretary-General and the rest of the Security Council. Better to be gracious and positive, and claim victory and vindication.

They largely got what they wanted, and it was hard to see how they could have got it any other way. The military track, always regarded as negotiating track alongside, given that the proposed action could not by itself resolve the matter. In the event the "rough cop/soft cop" routine of America and Britain on the one hand, and Russia and France on the other, worked quite well, giving Mr Annan a strong negotiating hand. London and Washington can claim that, once again, their threats of force have led Saddam to back away from an unacceptable position. They have shown they do not recoil from the unpleasant truth that in much of the world force remains the ultimate arbiter of political life. If Western countries wish to exercise influence in such places, they must be ready to wage war. If they are not, they must accept that influence will be exercised locally, and probably more brutally, by those who are. Opponents of the war option in this case did not have an alternative that would have produced a better outcome.

To the extent that this is Mr Annan's deal, he will be responsible for its successful implementation. The key test will not be whether it passes muster with the Security Council, but how well it succeeds in practice. The reported clause that the inspections of the past must be completed in "reasonable time" provides scope for future argument. So there is no reason to suppose that the games with the UN weapons inspectors will stop, nor that they will necessarily be won by the Iraqis. Their capacity for deception has let them down in the past. Unscrupulous breakthroughs have come as much from information supplied by disaffected Iraqis as by surveillance equipment. Providing clues to UNSCOM will remain a way of getting back at a leader who cannot otherwise be touched. Now that Mr Annan's prestige has been tied to UNSCOM, he will be obliged to back his team if they call "foul". Lastly, while full compliance should bring an end to sanctions, that decision will still depend on the Security Council. An attempt will also be made to make a military response to future non-compliance virtually automatic.

If the threat of force is to be cranked up again in future, the allies must do a better job of demonstrating that they have a viable strategy. They will also need to address the perception that force and punitive economic measures have become the instruments of choice when dealing with tricky foreign-policy problems, and that America is very selective when directing its pressure. As in 1991, the Americans found their crisis diplomacy was hindered by the charge that they were prepared to take an issue but not Israel. After the Gulf War that charge was answered by increased pressure on a Likud Government to show flexibility with the Palestinians. Once again, Tel Aviv may feel the brunt of American attempts to rebalance its Middle Eastern policy and rebuild its position in the Arab world.

The author is Professor of War Studies at King's College London.

# Hare raising

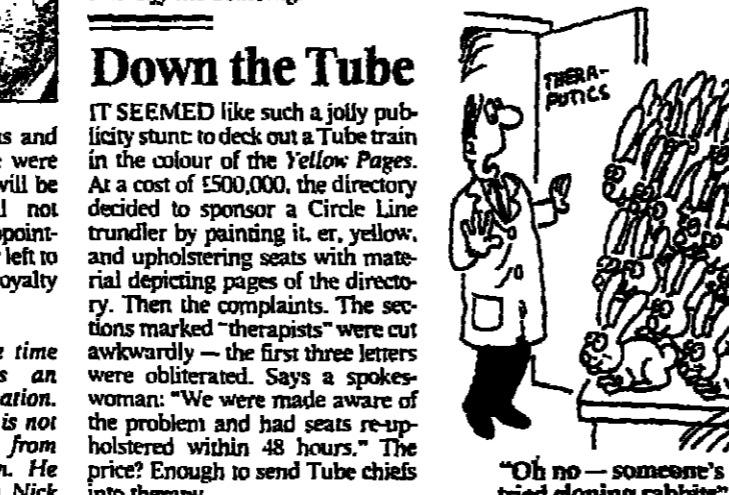
NOT only did the loquacious Neil Kinnock have testing relations with some of the most senior figures in the new Government, he also felt betrayed by left-leaning literary swells, according to a forthcoming authorised biography. The book launches a rocket against the bearded John Smith. Robin Cook and even Kinnock's old spin-doctor, Peter Mandelson. More surprising is the blast directed at Neil's former celebrity chum, David Hare, the playwright. In the book he will be accused of betraying the would-be Prime Minister's confidence on screen. Dr Martin Westlake, a fellow Eurocrat, has been chosen to tell the gory story of the backstabbing which scarred Kinnock's valiant campaign. After extensive interviews with Kinnock and his colleagues, the book will portray a man who can forgive the tabloids for lampooning him, but not Hare.

The playwright travelled with Kinnock during the 1992 campaign. Afterwards, he produced *The Absence of War*, a study of a verbose leader forced by spin-doctors to abandon his principles. The television treatment starring John Thaw (pictured with Kinnock) made the identity of the intended target fairly obvious. "Neil was deeply wounded by Hare," says Westlake. "Everyone thought it was based on him, but it was unfair and misleading." Cook and Smith will also be attacked for sniping at an insecure leader. "Neil realised they were ambitious and wanted to be leader. There were moments of tension which will be reflected." Mandelson will not escape. "Neil was very disappointed and frustrated when Peter left to fight Hartlepool. He values loyalty above all."



IT COULD still be some time before Baghdad becomes an agreeable tourist destination. Harry Cohen, Labour MP, is not taking up an invitation from President Saddam Hussein. He has passed his stiffy on to Nick

**Brown, Labour's Chief Whip, with the sceptical scribble: "I'm not going. I don't trust Tony not to intensify the bombing."**



"Oh no — someone's tried cloning rabbits"

scripping at an insecure leader. "Neil



# FIRMNESS AND FORCE

## How now to keep Saddam in his words

In Baghdad yesterday, Kofi Annan clearly if implicitly endorsed the American and British preparations for military action against Iraq. Diplomacy could do much, he said, "but you can do a lot more with diplomacy backed up by firmness and force". To state this truth so baldly, and state it while in Iraq, was a shrewd move. Mr Annan has a good understanding of the language of Washington politics. He is unlikely to have signed an agreement with Iraq were he not confident that it would pass the minute scrutiny to which the Clinton Administration, in particular, will subject it. But he must also be aware that however leakproof the deal proves to be, to have signed a deal at all, on his own authority as UN Secretary-General, could create political difficulties for President Clinton.

The most obvious dilemma for the White House would arise if the agreement provides for anything less than full, unfettered, unconditional access to UN weapons inspectors, without time limits or deadlines, throughout Iraq; or if it turns out to contain any loopholes, for example with respect to Iraqi "sovereignty", that President Saddam Hussein could exploit. Given the likelihood that it would still be approved by a majority of the Security Council, Mr Clinton would then be faced with the decision to order enforcement, but in spite of Mr Annan's expressed conviction that he had bound Iraq to meet its obligations under UN resolutions. Even if Britain, as it must, were to act in concert with the US — a decision that would test Tony Blair's command of his Cabinet — the risks of a political explosion in the Arab world would have multiplied.

Since there is an agreement, therefore, the White House must hope that it is indeed constructed of cast iron. On the international front, that would be a significant victory for American and British policy. It would be a complete reversal of Iraq's position of only a month ago, when it refused categorically to work with the UNSCOM team unless sanc-

tions were lifted and declared itself "ready to face the consequences, including war". Such a success would not, however, put Mr Clinton out of range of guns on Capitol Hill, where the UN remains an object of distrust. Having won the backing of a majority of Americans for a military showdown, Mr Clinton could be exposed to charges, not only from the Republican Right, of letting the UN dictate American policy. So long as Iraq abides by the agreement, the criticism may be muted; yesterday Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House, said he had no problems with Mr Annan's mediation so long as he was "operating within a framework set by the American President". But after so extensive an American military build-up, any deal that leaves Saddam in power will fall fully to satisfy. Given Iraq's record of cheating, critics will argue that Mr Clinton has set a dangerous precedent by placing Mr Annan in the driving seat. All that has been achieved, they will say, is a resumption of the weary game of cat and mouse; Mr Clinton should not have allowed America's claws to be drawn.

The President has done no such thing. But demonstrating this will not be easy. The solution proposed by the British Government is a Security Council resolution that gave prior sanction to the use of "any means necessary", without the need for a further diplomatic round of capitals, to enforce Iraq's complete compliance. Both America and Britain should make clear that any council member who fails to back this will bear responsibility if action outside the UN framework proves necessary. Saddam had weeks in which to disperse the evidence UNSCOM's inspectors seek, setting back their task by months. He may co-operate with resumed inspections so long as American and British forces remain in the Gulf, only to resume obstructing them as soon as the deployment is wound down. Mr Clinton must be in a position to assert unequivocally that retribution would then be automatic, immediate and devastating.

# SHIFTING GROUND

## Prescott has edged towards a saner housing policy

Housing is an issue of high importance but low political profile. It barely figured in the last election campaign, when the prospect of an additional 4.4 million houses being built in Britain by 2016 passed largely without comment. This omission has been corrected through the controversy that has raged over the last few weeks. John Prescott's statement to the House of Commons yesterday, which reiterated themes that he had first outlined in *The Times*, tacitly acknowledged recent criticism of his department and pledged an adjustment in policy. The Deputy Prime Minister's promise of a "tilt" towards urban development should be taken further still.

Mr Prescott's revised position will inevitably be portrayed as a policy shift. Ministers had seemed willing to accept another increase in predicted housing needs. They had also appeared indifferent to the impact on the countryside of more mountains of brick and concrete. The decision to approve vast new estates in Stevenage and Newcastle reinforced the emerging image of a Government, metropolitan to its core, neither interested in nor sensitive towards rural concerns. This unease will motivate thousands of political citizens to attend a march for the countryside next Sunday.

The Government says that it will abandon a "simplistic predict and provide approach" in housing matters. It has also promised that the proportion of new homes that will be built on "brownfield" sites will rise to 60 per cent over the next decade and appointed Lord Rogers of Riverside to lead a task force that will identify recyclable land. This new emphasis on urban regeneration is sound. It

is to be hoped that the Rogers committee's investigation will allow Mr Prescott to revive his target for city construction further upwards towards the 66 per cent figure that is now the Conservative Party's ambition.

That is unlikely while the notion of 4.4 million additional homes remains unquestioned. This projection has been shaped by disturbing social and economic predictions, notably about family breakdown, that the Government should be doing its utmost to resist rather than incorporate into official assumptions. More, but smaller, units should in any case not necessarily imply new houses, rather than conversions. In his statement, Mr Prescott rightly condemned "crude figures and confused statistics", but unless his Department for the Environment liberates itself from these numbers, "predict and provide", whether in a simplistic or somewhat more sophisticated form, will effectively shape housing policy.

Mr Prescott has the power to make a real difference. As the Minister ultimately responsible for both Environment and Transport, he can impose an integrated approach. He has recognised the importance of ensuring that towns and cities are attractive places in which to live and work. Without that, Lord Rogers's register will be of limited value. The Deputy Prime Minister will not make progress without Gordon Brown's active assistance. The present tax regime — especially the VAT charged on urban development — invites the building industry to concentrate on the countryside. The Chancellor should remove this disincentive in his Budget next month.

# A STAR'S A STAR FOR A THAT

## Connery's status is not diminished by government pettiness

It is not only prophets who are without honour in their own land: Scottish nationalists seem similarly to be neglected. How else to explain the intervention of Scotland's first citizen, and putative first minister, Donald Dewar, in denying his country's most famous live export a knighthood?

Sean Connery may, like many Scots before him, have made his fortune and home abroad but he has done his country innumerable services. From making an Edinburgh accent sexy, to transforming Ian Fleming's cold sadist, James Bond, into a popular hero, Mr Connery has proved he is Scotland's greatest actor. He has lent his gifts to a variety of charitable causes but it is his generosity to one cause in particular which has blighted his chance of a knighthood.

By putting his money, and perhaps as importantly, his mouth at the disposal of the Scottish National Party, Mr Connery has provoked new Labour into withholding the knighthood to which his talents entitle him and which the last Government was happy to recommend. It is a remarkably petty act, unworthy of Mr Dewar, and plain Mr Connery is entitled to ask him "Donald, where's your honour?"

Mr Connery may choose, for reasons which are a matter for his accountant and himself, to spend most of his time in Spain but that should be no bar to recognition. If ordering one's affairs to minimise the amount of tax payable on these shores were an affront to Her Majesty, then why is one of

her ministers, the Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson, allowed to continue in office? If exile itself is considered dishonourable, then why were the New York-based composer Richard Rodney Bennett and Arthur C. Clarke, in Sri Lanka, offered knighthoods by this Government?

One Labour MP has tried to suggest that Mr Connery is unworthy of honour because of comments he has made on domestic violence. His words, although uttered a long time ago, do appear unfortunate but Labour's criticism, like Oddjob's bowler, will end up causing more damage to the careless finger. Mr Connery's words did not prevent Gordon Brown and Mr Dewar inviting him to share platforms with them last year to help to win the devolution referendum.

If Mr Connery's name is good enough to use when it suits Labour, why rubbish it now? If Mr Connery is good enough to lend his name to Labour's "yes, yes" campaign why does the party now say "no, never" to extending him an honour? Is Labour so fearful of Scottish nationalism and so inclined to believe that the Scots are susceptible to the glamour of titles as to imagine that "Sir" Sean would give the SNP the momentum it needed to use devolution as a stepping-stone to independence? A party that believed its Edinburgh parliament would forestall, not foment, nationalism would not be so fearful and would recognise that Mr Connery already enjoys more honour in Scottish eyes than any politician can confer.

# No longer fighting for new Labour

From Miss Rosie Brocklehurst

Sir, I have written to the Home Secretary about his announcement not to proceed with an investigation into the Hillsborough disaster (report, February 19). After 16 years in the Labour Party, and after working for the party as a press officer and fighting long and hard for the return of a Labour Government, I have cancelled my party membership.

I was surprised myself at the reaction I felt. I have no connection with Hillsborough, but perhaps because I felt more informed than some I took this particular story of a community's grief to heart. The Home Secretary said in the House that we cannot take the grief of the families away. That is true. But if the Government had proceeded with a full inquiry, even after all these years, they would have been seen to have attempted to reach out to the families and would have gone a long way to sharing the burden of grief.

Sharing the burden is what investigating Bloody Sunday in Ireland is all about. It is not just a cynical political move on the road to peace. It shows that those in power are willing to understand the pain. It does not right the situation, or bring back the dead, or take away grief, but it relieves people of their sense of powerlessness.

When Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed the Prime Minister and his advisers anticipated correctly the nation's mood and responded well. But one correct response is not enough.

Many people feel they have been neglected for years by a callous, self-interested Conservative Government. Such neglect is not just a physical deprivation but a spiritual one.

To show compassion and humanitarian feeling is not a weakness in government but something that people need, and this country is lacking in that kind of leadership. We now have a chance to obtain a new maturity and to embrace new spiritual values. But in these secular times we need government more than ever before to take a lead, and to listen. This Government is in danger of losing touch with its vision.

The loss of my membership will mean little or nothing to the Labour Party. It means an enormous change for me.

Yours sincerely,  
ROSIE BROCKLEHURST  
(Labour Party press officer, 1983-87),  
14a Mount Villas Col-de-Sac,  
Lansdowne Hill, SE22 0NU,  
February 23.

# Hard times

From Mr Malcolm K. Savidge, MP for Aberdeen North (Labour)

Sir, As Matthew Parris says (Political sketch, February 12), it is "slightly over the top" to accuse the previous Tory Government of reducing Britain to Dickensian squalor.

However, what I actually said was that "the Government inherited from the Tories a division between rich and poor comparable with that in the times of Charles Dickens". The 1979-97 administration increased relative differences in wealth until by some measures they were calculated to be even wider than they had been more than a century before.

Admittedly my reference to Dickens was introduced for the allusions evoked. Perhaps politicians can be permitted to indulge "slightly" in poetic licence and partisanship, even before they become parliamentary sketchwriters.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM K. SAVIDGE,  
House of Commons,  
February 17.

# Lancaster photography

From Mr George Jenks

Sir, The photographs of a Lancaster bomber which you printed on February 16 can be dated by the plane's serial number, FK 535, to October 1943. This particular aircraft was not the prototype as suggested but the first of 400 built at Castle Bromwich.

It was assigned to 463 (Australian) Squadron based at Waddington, Lincolnshire, and lost on a bombing mission to Lille on May 10-11, 1944.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE JENKS,  
Avro Heritage Centre,  
Avro International Aerospace,  
Chester Road, Woodford,  
Stockport, Cheshire SK7 1QR,  
February 18.

From Mr Harry Holmes

Sir, Your report referred to Lancasters as having "a very short lifespan before being scrapped". I cannot agree. The Lancaster design at the end of production in November 1945 had changed very little from Roy Chadwick's original submission in January 1941. Despite carrying the heaviest bomb loads of the war, many of the aircraft completed over 100 operations.

Yours faithfully,  
HARRY HOLMES  
(Author, *Avro Lancaster — The Definitive Record*,  
Airlife Publishing Ltd, 1997),  
27 Cooper Fold,  
Middleton, Manchester M24 6JN,  
February 17.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

# Community care of the mentally ill

From Professor Malcolm Weller

Sir, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, the former Secretary of State for Health (letter, February 16), says that there has been "a welcome increase" in the number of community psychiatric nurses, psychiatrists and better-educated GPs.

I am not convinced. On psychiatric wards over one third of day shifts and one half of night shifts are worked by agency or bank nurses or by nurses on temporary leave, their beds are immediately occupied by another. Instead of 7 per cent of our acute patients being compelled to receive hospital treatment, we now have up to 70 per cent.

Without adequate finance, we are skimming on training budgets and we continue to extract "efficiency savings" from a grossly overburdened system; meanwhile the proportion of the NHS budget going into mental illness has fallen from 15 to 10.5 per cent. Britain has between one half and one third as many psychiatrists per capita as have other European countries.

Among the 30 members of the hastily composed "reference group" set up some six months ago to advise Mr Paul Boateng on mental health, there is not a single full-time practising psychiatrist. The critics of psychiatry, unaccountable for their views and actions, have long had an attentive audience. Perhaps it is time to listen to those working with the most seriously ill patients.

Yours truly,  
MALCOLM WELLER  
(Chairman, North Thames Regional Advisory Psychiatric Committee),  
St Ann's Hospital,  
St Ann's Road, N15 3TH,  
February 16.

# The Lord's Prayer

From Sir Christopher Pinsent

Sir, Inset in Ruth Gledhill's report (February 12) of the approval by the General Synod of the Church of England of two versions of *Our Father*, are what one assumes are the versions given the synod's imprimatur. The "modified traditional" version quoted is written "on earth", although in the Book of Common Prayer (traditional version) it is "in earth".

This direct echo of the Latin *in terra* as a translation no doubt preceded the view of "Enlightenment" science from which is derived Addison's beautiful hymn imagining the planets: "For ever singing as they shine: 'The hand that made us is divine'".

Such a concept has perhaps abated the attention to "on". But this is not, I submit, as close to our understanding of the prayer as the lucky original translation.

"On earth" can equally mean the surface on which an aircraft or spacecraft stands when it is not in flight. But in reciting the prayer that is not what we mean. "In earth" on the other hand immediately connotes all of God's and man's material commitment, "earth" being the material — wherever in space it may be located — in which the spirit may be incarnate and open to witness.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER PINSENT,  
Ramble, 3 The Cricket Green,  
Woodside Road, Chiddingfold,  
Surrey GU8 4UG,  
February 12.

From Mr Peter A. Slattery

Sir, In commenting on the proposed revision of the wording of the Lord's Prayer, Ian Curtis is surely right (let-

ter, February 13) when he suggests we should concern ourselves with what it was that Our Lord said. I am not aware that the Roman Catholic Church has an authorised version of the prayer in contemporary English, but the Jerusalem Bible is authorised for liturgical use.

Translating from the Greek (as the Aramaic words Jesus spoke are presumably not recorded in any authentic document), the Jerusalem rendering of Matthew vi, 12, 13 reads: "And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us. And do not put us to the test, but save us from the evil one."

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL A. CRAWFORD  
(Director),  
Institute of Brain Chemistry and Human Nutrition,  
University of North London,  
166-222 Holloway Road, N7 8DB,  
February 19.

From Dr Henry Campbell

Sir, Ted Hughes's captivating idea of making the Dome a model of the human brain, with its various areas "halls of experience" as it were, is not only impracticable but utterly impossible.

If a model of the human brain were made, using the finest possible wires or fibres representing the axons and dendrites and neuronal links of which the brain is composed, then, *mutatis mutandis*, a volumetric space equal to that of the Dome would be required. In no way would there be any space for "walk-around" or "viewing" areas.

To project Mr Hughes's idea into the realms of reality would, in my estimation, require a dome about fifty times larger — about the size of the metropolis?

Sincerely,  
HENRY CAMPBELL,  
St Austell, Wilkie Road,  
Birmingham, Kent CT7 9HE,  
February 18.

From Mrs Bridget Kenward

Sir, If the concept of "temptation" in the traditional Lord's Prayer is too sophisticated for consumer society, we can pray for a solicitor to save us from the "time of trial".

Yours faithfully,  
B. J. KENWARD,  
Stoborough Croft, Grange Road,  
Wareham, Dorset BH20 5AJ,  
February 13.

From Mr Stephen Caney

Sir, There is only one thing faintly more ridiculous than a parent trying to be as trendy as the children, and that is the Church of England trying to be modern.

I remain, Sir,  
STEPHEN CANEY,  
32 Kennedy Road,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 7AB,  
February 13.

# House of Lords reform

From Mr Colin P. Brain

Sir, The Marquess of Bath (letter, February 16) calls for the replacement of hereditary peers by delegations from the regions.

May I suggest that he looks at last December's White Paper, *Building Partnerships in Prosperity*, which provides the basis for the Regional Development Agencies Bill now going through committee.

It seems to me that the proposed regional development agencies, taken in conjunction with the comments of the Deputy Prime Minister in his introduction to the White Paper, could be regarded as useful stepping stones towards the reform of the

House of Lords proposed by the Marquess.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN P. BRAIN,  
12 Lancaster Hall, Wesley Drive,  
Britannia Village, E16 1SN.

From the Reverend Gordon Freeman

Sir, I am constantly amazed at the capacity of supporters of democracy to dismiss an hereditary House of Lords so lightly (Mr Donnem's letter, February 16). Do they not see that we need protection from those we have merely elected?

GORDON FREEMAN,  
48 High Street,  
Ardglass, Co Down BT30 7TU,  
106102.334@compuserve.com

# 'Death of a Princess'

From Lady Annabel Goldsmith

Sir, In challenging press criticism of his book, *Death of a Princess* ("Diana deserves the truth", *Media*, February 20) co-author Mr Thomas Sancton sees fit to doubt the veracity of my account of what the Princess said to me 36 hours before her death, namely that she had no desire to enter into a new marriage. I was on the other end of that telephone line; Mr Sancton was not.

Mr Sancton also wonders why Rosa Monckton and I have taken so long to speak out. The reason is that until this month, when *The Times* decided to serialise this unnecessary book — which alleges: "That they intended to marry now seems beyond question" — there was no need to do so.

As a close friend of the Princess I am saddened that you should have given support to a book which can only cause embarrassment and hurt to her sons.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNABEL GOLDSMITH,  
Ormeley Lodge,  
Ham Gate Avenue,  
Ham Common, Richmond,  
Surrey TW10 5HB,  
February 23.

# Keeping track of time

From Mrs Sheri Banks

Sir, Arriving at Chester station early to meet my daughter on the 19:35 (sic) last night, I was intrigued to see that the TV screen claimed the train was "Expected 19:51 — on time".

Querying the logic of the statement, I was told by the stationmaster that it meant the train was currently running late but might end up on time. I fell silent and waited.

At 20:10 the train arrived, 35 minutes late — with the TV screen continuing to declare its earlier optimism.

Curious, I returned to the same genial stationmaster, who this time said "Sorry, love, the man who does the TV goes home at 7 o'clock".

Come back, British Rail: all is forgiven.

Yours faithfully,  
SHERI BANKS,  
Ty Ucha'r Llan, Cilcain,  
Mold, Flintshire CH7 5PA,  
February 16.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

# Poet's brainwave for Dome interior

From Professor M. A. Crawford

Sir, Ted Hughes's brilliant conception for the Millennium Dome ("A brainy idea for the Domeheads", February 18) needs serious consideration. As he comments, educational systems have not matched a child's intelligence, which can attain dual, if not multi-language, skills at between two and six years of age, whilst language is taught in schools with difficulty many years later. Might not the same be true for mathematics, the humanities and science if they were taught as the languages they are?

In the next century the population will multiply, together with social, environmental, economic and political pressures, so a more, not less, intelligent population is essential to prevent behavioural and political breakdown.

Average height in the UK has increased by 0.4 inches almost every decade this century. We have been changed in shape and size by what we eat. Progress has been astonishing and life expectancy has expanded, yet there is no guarantee that this will continue. The warning sign is the parallel rise in heart disease, cancer and brain disorders in the West.

There is no greater lack of public understanding than our image of the brain. Ted Hughes's exhibit could illustrate the origin of life, the appearance of the first brains, nourished by the rich chemistry in the oceans millions of years ago. It could trace the origin of *Homo sapiens* and of civilisations. Nigel Hawkes ("More fish please, Jeeves", *Science Briefing*, February 16) reminds us of the debt we owe to the sea and its produce with their relevance to the brain and our own evolution.

The full impact of marine origins is only just being recognised, not only for the health of the brain but also the heart and the immune systems. Telling such a story in the Dome under Ted Hughes's grand vision could be unimaginably exciting.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL A. CRAWFORD  
(Director),  
Institute of Brain Chemistry and Human Nutrition,  
University of North London,  
166-222 Holloway Road, N7 8DB,  
February 19.

From Dr Henry Campbell

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Sincerely,  
HENRY CAMPBELL,  
St Austell, Wilkie Road,  
Birmingham, Kent CT7 9HE,  
February 18.

# Baby Dome

From Mrs Georgie Slater

Sir, Baby Dome is planned (report, February 23). Should I be poised for future announcements of Posh Dome, Scary Dome, Ginger Dome and Sporty Dome?

Yours in anticipation,  
GEORGE SLATER,  
38 Healy-Delny,  
Lisvane, Cardiff CF4 5SR,  
howard@astellus.demon.co.uk  
February 23.

From Mr Mervyn Coverdale

Sir, As Baby Dome has been born a little over nine months after election night, this is one problem Labour can't blame on the Tories.

Yours faithfully,  
MERVYN COVERDALE,  
7 The Maltings, Grove Green,  
Maidstone, Kent ME14 5UY,  
how@pop.dial.pipex.com  
February 23.

# AI angel

From Mr Patrick Whitworth

Sir, You report controversy over the sculpture *Angel of the North* (report and picture, leading article, February 16). Were the angel to flap its wings and make environmentally clean electricity the number of objectors would double.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK WHITWORTH,  
The Mount,  
Ferness, Nairn IV12 5XB,  
pjwhitworth@aol.com

From Dr Dunstan Hadley

Sir, Looking at a picture of the Gateshead prang I can only ask — did the pilot bale out before he spun in?

Yours faithfully,  
DUNSTAN HADLEY  
(Pilot, Fleet Air Arm, 1942-46),  
Overholm, Dalbeattie,  
Kirkcubrightshire DG5 4HX,  
February 16.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE February 23: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening hosted a Concert given by the London Mozart Players...

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an Investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00 am, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will attend a ceremony at the Commonwealth Institute...

Mr Christopher Anthony Prendergast

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Christopher Anthony Prendergast, CRE, DL, will take place in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey...

Reception

Darlington & Parkinson Mr Graham Parkinson, Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, was the principal guest at a reception held at the Footscray Reception Centre...

Inner Temple

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple: Mr Nicholas Davidson, QC, Miss Rosamund Woodcock-Smith, QC...

School news

The Portsmouth Grammar

The Headmaster of The Portsmouth Grammar School, Dr Timothy Hands, launched the school's new initiative, Partnership Portsmouth...

Birthdays today

Professor George Blair, former Principal of London Business School, 59; Judge Inge Bernstein, 67; Professor E. Boyland, biochemist, 93; Mr Brian Close, cricketer, 67; Dr Lionel Dakers, former Director, Royal School of Church Music, 74...

Legal appointment

Mr Peter John Merrick Heppel, QC, has been appointed a Circuit Judge, assigned to the North Eastern Circuit.

Anniversaries

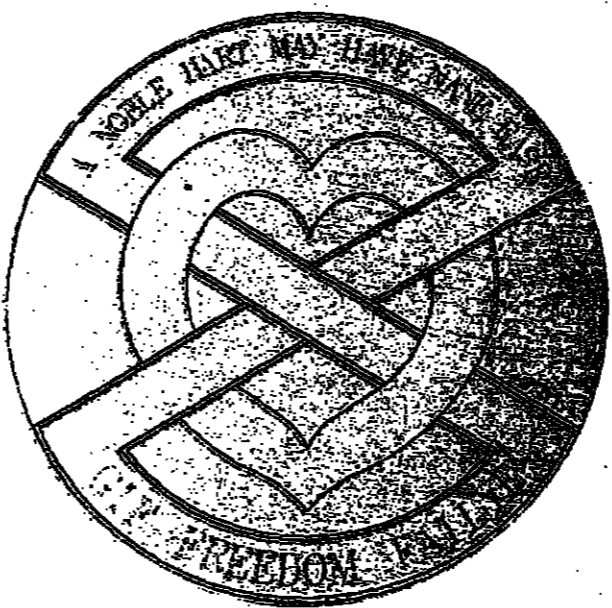
BIRTHS: Charles Le Brun, painter, Paris, 1619; Catherine I, Empress of Russia 1725-27; Dorpat, Estonia, 1684; James Quin, actor, London, 1695; Samuel Wesley, musician, Bristol, 1764; Wilhelm Grimm, historian and folklore collector, Hanau, Germany, 1786; Samuel Laver, novelist, songwriter and painter, Dublin, 1797; Winslow Homer, painter, Boston, Massachusetts, 1836; George Moore, novelist, Ballislagh, Co Mayo, 1852; Arnold Dolmetsch, musician, Le Mans, 1858; Sir Arthur Pearson, newspaper proprietor, Woolley, Somerset, 1866.



Victoria Oswald, winner of Historic Scotland's memorial competition, at Melrose Abbey yesterday

Robert the Bruce's heart returns to be buried in the abbey he loved

THE heart of Robert the Bruce will return to Melrose Abbey and be laid to rest there 684 years to the day after his victory over the English in the Battle of Bannockburn. Historic Scotland, the government agency, announced yesterday that the casket which is believed to contain his heart will be reburied on June 24, the anniversary of the battle.



Ms Oswald's winning design for the stone slab that will mark the reburial spot in the abbey

Ms Oswald said yesterday: "My hope is that the design reflects how closely intertwined the concept of Scottish freedom is in Scotland with the history and underlying legacy of Robert the Bruce." Ms Oswald, a skilled wood carver, beat 50 other designs from all over Britain and one from Italy.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.D.G. Adam and Miss L.A. Singleton The engagement is announced between Alistair David Gordon, second son of the late Mr Gordon Adam and Mrs Adam, of Wendover, Buckinghamshire, and Leslie Anne, only daughter of Mr John Singleton, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Mrs Janice Singleton, of Manchester, New Hampshire.

Latest wills

Lady (Julia Mary) Wood, of Lightwater, Surrey, left estate valued at £2,928,928 net. Lady (Gwendoline Lucy Constance Rushworth) Latham, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, left estate valued at £798,531 net.

Luncheons

HM Government Dr John Reid, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government in honour of Sir Don Adolfo Menendez, Minister of State for the Spanish Armed Forces, held yesterday at Lancaster House.

Dinners

Mayor, Sir David Hardy, Chairman of the Trustees of the National Maritime Museum, and Mr Barrow also spoke. Among others present were: The Prime Minister of the Fishmongers' Company, the Chairman of the London Fish Auction, the Deputy Mayor of Trinity House, the Chairman of the London Fish and Seafood Association, the Chairman of the London Fish and Seafood Association, the Chairman of the London Fish and Seafood Association...

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS: MARGARET PETERSEN - On 16th February 1998, in New York to Marie and Jean Peter, a beautiful daughter, Marie Charlotte.

DEATHS: CORFIELD - On February 18th 1998, at 11.30 am, peacefully at home, aged 87 years, Mrs Corfield, nee Williams, of 11, St. John's Road, London N16 4JL.

DEATHS: HANBURY - On February 22nd 1998, at 11.30 am, peacefully at home, aged 87 years, Mrs Hanbury, nee Williams, of 11, St. John's Road, London N16 4JL.

DEATHS: MERRILL - Kenneth Alexander Merrill CA of Glasgow, aged 86, peacefully at home, on 20th February 1998, at 11.30 am.

TICKETS FOR SALE: ALLIANCE Theatre, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London. Tickets available for various productions.

FOR SALE: A MODERN detached house, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 cars, in a quiet residential area. Call 0171 481 1982.

PERSONAL: Various personal notices, including lost and found items, and community announcements.

OBITUARIES

COLONEL THE HON HANNING PHILIPPS

Colonel the Hon Hanning Philipps, MBE, former chairman of Schweppes, died on January 29 aged 93. He was born on February 14, 1904.

Although he came from one of the oldest Welsh families, Hanning Philipps succeeded in making his own mark on the world. From 1945 to 1968 he was a highly effective chairman of Schweppes, overseeing a great expansion of the company's domestic and overseas business.

Richard Hanning Philipps was born at Brentwood, Essex, into a remarkable family which produced three rich and influential peers in one generation. His father, the shipping and insurance magnate Laurence Philipps, to whom he bore a strong physical resemblance, was created Baron Milford in 1939.

Hanning Philipps, who was named after his maternal great-uncle John Hanning Speke, the African explorer, was a much less flamboyant figure than Wogan: for one thing, he was a conventional lifelong Tory. Tall and good-looking, Hanning was a shy man whose early years were overshadowed by tuberculosis.

There was no shortage of useful family connections, though early employment as an office boy with his uncle Lord St Davids' Drayton group of companies was rudely cut short when Philipps's uncomplimentary remarks about his uncle were relayed back to him, and he was given the sack.

Family links opened another door when, in March 1930, Philipps joined the board of Schweppes of which his uncle, Major General Sir Ivor Philipps, was chairman.

In June 1930 Philipps married Lady Marion Dalrymple, the strong-minded daughter of the 12th Earl of Stair. The ceremony at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, was described by The Glasgow Herald as "the principal social event of the summer season" north of the border.

Later in the decade, in 1939, Philipps took the one uncharacteristic step of his career. He let his name go forward as a last-minute Conservative by-election candidate in Brecon and Radnor, where his father had a large estate.

In 1940 he was commissioned into the Welsh Guards. Never physically robust, he was deemed unfit for the front line, and



capably filled a series of staff jobs. The first was as ADC to the then Lieutenant-General Sir Harold Alexander, GOC Southern Command, 1940-42. As he rose from the lunch table, Alexander would often announce crisply: "Hanning, I'd like to see you in my room in five minutes."

Retirement from his principal business responsibility left more time for activities in Pembroke, where he had moved into Picton Castle in 1954.

It did not take long for him to realise that the place (which he had never even glimpsed until well into his forties) was likely to prove a terrible drain on his resources. Requisitioned as a hospital during the war, the magnificent castle was in extremely poor repair.

By the mid-1980s Hanning Philipps was probably the most interesting development was the opening of Picton's disused laundry as the Graham Sutherland Gallery in June 1976. The project was financed mostly by outside bodies and managed by the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff.

Philipps also played a significant part in the area's economic development. From 1963 to 1976 he was chairman of the Milford Haven Conservancy Board, set

up in 1958 to oversee the development of Milford Haven as Britain's leading oil port. During his chairmanship, Texaco, Gulf and Amoco all opened refineries, and their integration into the life of the community reflected credit on Philipps and his board.

He was best known locally, however, as Lord-Lieutenant of Pembrokeshire, 1958-74, a role for which his natural courtesy — and his high boredom threshold — made him a fitting successor to the many Philippses who had previously served in the office.

Then, in 1974, his beloved county was absorbed into Dyfed under the Heath Government's reorganisation of local government. Philipps did not lose out personally, being chosen as the Queen's representative for the vast new county of Dyfed, which also took in Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire.

For all his old-fashioned sense of duty, Philipps was an intensely private man who was probably happiest entertaining a few close friends, or family, or amusing himself with his forestry, his gardens, his library, his art collecting (he was a discriminating buyer) or his chief relaxation: painting. He would disappear for hours to his studio in the upper reaches of the 16-bedroom castle often to work on the pen-and-ink landscape drawings which were his forte.

He was predeceased by his wife. He leaves a son and an adopted daughter.

PHILIP YATES

Philip Yates, GC, a hero of the 1931 Bentley Colliery disaster, died on February 14 aged 85. He was born on January 5, 1913.

ONE of eight men who won the Edward Medal (later translated to George Cross) in the disaster at Bentley Colliery in Yorkshire, Philip Yates was the last survivor of a group who displayed great gallantry in extricating injured men and getting them to safety.

Fires broke out and there was immediate danger of further explosions. Of the party at the colliery more than half were killed immediately, with more dying later. Only two of the 47 in the immediate vicinity of the blast survived.



Philip Yates, left, with other Edward Medal winners at their investiture in 1932

Yates and his colleagues Richard Darker, Oliver Soulsby and Frank Sykes, made their way to the devastated area and, notwithstanding the imminent danger of further massive explosions, which might have brought

down walls and ceiling over a wide area of the mine workings, showed the utmost tenacity in extricating the injured and bringing them to safety. This involved men being carried two miles underground to the main shaft, before they could be taken to the surface. Indeed, there were

further explosions that evening while the rescue work was still going on. Others among the eight who won Edward Medals that day were members of the colliery rescue team, who fought their way into choking clouds of dust with breathing apparatus. But there were also

a number of unsung heroes who never received their due, including three women who arrived, apparently from outside the colliery, spent the whole day tending the injured and then disappeared without giving anyone their names. In addition to his Edward Medal, Yates was awarded The Daily Herald Order of Industrial Heroism for his bravery at Bentley Colliery.

Philip William Yates was born in Co Durham and educated at Counden Church School, Bishop Auckland. After leaving school at 13, he worked for a year as an undertaker's assistant before becoming a coalminer in 1927. But he spent only four years as a miner. After the Bentley Colliery disaster he left the colliery to become a foundry worker, at which trade he worked until his retirement.

Yates retired to South Yorkshire, where he lived with his wife and children and pursued his hobby of painting in oils. He was awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977. Philip Yates is survived by his wife Mary and a son and daughter.

REES STEPHENS

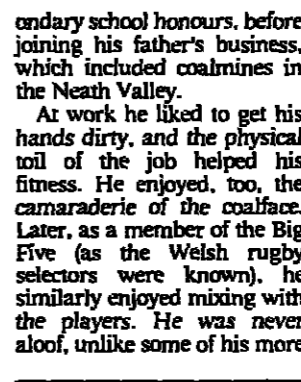
Rees Stephens, former Welsh rugby international and British Lions forward, died on February 4 aged 75. He was born on April 16, 1922.

REES STEPHENS, aged 23, made his debut for Wales in the "Victory" international against France in the 1945-46 season, and with a nicely judged symmetry ended his rugby-playing career against the same opponents in Paris in 1957. In between, playing in the second row or lock, he won 32 caps in all. When rugby international fixtures were not as numerous as they are nowadays, this was quite an achievement. In Paris he was, however, only a few days short of his 35th birthday, which might also, in the school of very hard knocks in the scrum, be considered a remarkable accomplishment. He retired as the most capped forward to play for Wales.

Not that he ended his rugby career at that moment. Such was his affection for the game that he continued to take part in many games when he had entered his forties.

Rees Stephens was born in Neath, a town he never left other than on those occasions when his rugby interests dictated that he should. His father, Glyn, had also played for Wales on either side of the First World War. Like his father, Rees Stephens went on to serve rugby in an administrative capacity as a member of the Welsh Rugby Union committee. Unlike his father, though, he did not become president of the union. Although a very gregarious person among the rugby fraternity, always ready to share a story or discuss tactics, he tended to shy away from the limelight.

He showed his talent for the game at a very early age, winning an international cap for Wales at the under-14 level. He attended Llanedeyrn College and gained further secondary school honours, before joining his father's business, which included coalmines in the Neath Valley.



Rees Stephens

At work he liked to get his hands dirty, and the physical toll of the job helped his fitness. He enjoyed, too, the camaraderie of the coalface. Later, as a member of the Big Five (as the Welsh rugby selectors were known), he similarly enjoyed mixing with the players. He was never aloof, unlike some of his more

self-important colleagues. Training four times a week at a time when such a regimen was not de rigueur, he was a tough, uncompromising player. In the 1946-47 season he was an integral part of the Neath team which won the Welsh Club championship. He scored a try in his first full international when he played at number eight against England in 1947. Because of his versatility, unable to decide whether to play in the second row or in the middle of the back row, he appeared inconsistently for his country. A series of injuries also hindered his progress.

It was an injury in 1950 that not only denied him his place in the Welsh team but also the captaincy. His partner from Neath, Roy John, replaced him and performed so well in the second row that Stephens failed to regain his position. Despite his exclusion from the

national team, he was nevertheless selected to tour with the Lions to Australia and New Zealand in that year.

A shoulder injury meant that he was not selected for the Test team against the All Blacks, but played twice in the Australian test. Failing, on his return, to regain his place in the Welsh team meant that he had gained only nine caps in the five postwar years. He was to earn more caps after the age of 30 than he had done before.

He formed an awesome partnership with John and the two became known as the terrible twins. While John leapt like a salmon for the ball in the line-out, Stephens, at 6ft 2in and 15½ stone, represented the hard core, ensuring that his colleague could ply his trade without undue interference from the opposition. They formed an impenetrable partnership for Neath and also, on ten occasions, for their country. Stephens, an aggressive mauler who could also indulge in the more delicate art of place kicking, formed an influential part of Wales's 1951-52 grand slam team. He was also a member of the Welsh team which defeated New Zealand in Cardiff in 1953.

While others retired, he kept going, and captained Wales to unexpected victories in Ireland in 1954 and at Stade Colombes in 1955 to deny France a first outright championship win. He was to repeat this dual accomplishment in 1957, when his father was president of the Welsh Rugby Union.

Stephens failed to make the Lions tour to South Africa in 1955 on the spurious ground that no player over 30 was to be chosen. Although somewhat reticent later in life, he served as chairman of Neath Athletic for more than 40 years, a club which had had its basis in the youth team which Stephens had established and was one of the first of its kind in Wales. He never married.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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ON THIS DAY

February 24, 1937

Though the critic of Tyrone Guthrie's production of Twelfth Night had a few reservations one rather envies the chance he had, 61 years ago, of seeing Laurence Olivier as Sir Toby Belch, Alec Guinness as Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Marius Goring as Feste.

There are certain Shakespearean questions that one would give much to have answered. For example, when Duncan came to call, where was thethane of Cawdor? Again, is it possible that, in the title of the present play, we have an authentic utterance of Shakespeare? As a tedious rehearsal drew to an end, did the fellow responsible for getting out the bills come to him and say: "But I must know — what is the title of this piece?" And did the dramatist (perhaps) reply: "Oh, call it Twelfth Night or what you will!" The commentators will tell us, with one eye on the saneness, that he was punning on his own name, and they may be allowed to think so if they will answer another question: How did Viola and Sebastian happen to be dressed precisely alike? Twelfth Night, in the matter of plot, is an extremely entangling play, but what an enchanting entanglement.

Mr. Tyrone Guthrie has used Miss Jessica Tandy, who is normally Viola, to represent Sebastian also, wherever the young man appears separately from her. It is ingeniously done and was worth trying again, but, in fact, it emphasizes the entanglement. No matter in all else the production is smooth and graceful and gay, and has enough in it that is conspicuously good to make this a performance of the play that is uncommonly well worth visiting.

There is a pleasant Sir Andrew by Mr. Alec Guinness, on the quiet side of Aguecheek; an Olivia by Miss Jill Easmond that is sometimes too prancing and skittish but improves on acquaintance; and a Maria by Miss Ivy St. Heller, which is a trifle disappointing because too determinedly girlish, but is nevertheless interesting, odd, and controversial. Mr.

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Marius Goring is a good, bitter clown whose bitterness deepens the colour of Malvolvo's imprisonment, and Miss Tandy's Viola, which has vivacity and sharp intelligence, lacks chiefly feeling, and lacks it, not because Miss Tandy misreads the part, but because her voice is shallow to the verse. But there are two outstanding performances. Mr. Laurence Olivier has transformed himself as Sir Toby. Only by a gleam of teeth is he now and then recognizable. The gait is that of Mr. Barrett of Wimpole Street if Sir Cedric Hardwicke had drunk the portier; the voice is that of an old, roared knight — Belch, in brief; and the incidental acrobatics are a dream of humorous timing. And Mr. John Abbott's Malvolvo, shaly only at the opening of the letter scene, is what the heathen imagine the Foreign Office to be — with an added touch of the Senior Common Room. Halfway through the letter scene he turns the whole character to pity — the pity that one has for the disappointment of dupes; hope and vanity shine in his foolish and yet intelligent face; and the way is prepared for his downfall. The reference, of course, is no longer to the Foreign Office, but it is impossible to escape a happy impression that this Malvolvo owes his peculiar moderation and assurance to a diplomatic training.

# In search of the anonymous high jumper

## The story so far . . .

It all went wrong for you over the weekend, didn't it? All is putting it a bit strongly. Admittedly, one or two results went the wrong way . . .

One or two? Name a player in either your league or your FA Cup team who didn't have a nightmare. Okay, then - Muzzy Izzet of Leicester. Even better as a player than a Scrabble score. Leicester beat Chelsea, and kept a clean sheet, so he gets three points.

Are you sure about that?

Well, minus one for the booking.

Which gives him five for the season and an automatic suspension. But otherwise OK.

You have a point, I suppose. I'll have to transfer him out, using up a valuable transfer, or settle for a pointless week or two. And as Leicester aren't in the Cup any longer, it might have to be goodbye Muzzy.

If you'll permit a suggestion, what about Carlton Palmer as a replacement? Southampton are doing well. Don't remind me. I haven't got any of their players, but I have got Gallacher and Hendry, both in the Blackburn team they beat on Saturday. Anyway, Palmer isn't in the Cup either.

Gallacher is suspended for three games after Wednesday, you know.

I do now, and Harrison got himself sent off on Saturday, so he'll be looking at a ban before too long. And that's the spearhead of my FA Cup team gone for a Burton. Why can't players behave themselves?

And only last week you were criticising referees! I've changed my mind. It's a manager's prerogative.

And after the Cup replays this week, I might use up all my remaining transfers changing my team.

Don't be too hasty - you might get to Cup Final weekend and find that none of your players is playing. True. And Gallacher would be back in good time for Wembley, wouldn't he?

That's the spirit. Still sticking with your prediction of a Rovers versus Coventry final?

Absolutely, although I'm tempted to get Schmeichel in before the Barnsley game. I wonder if tomorrow night's the night when he gets a goal.

As long as it doesn't come in extra time or penalties. No, I think he'll go forward if it's all square with ten minutes of normal time to go. Alex Ferguson didn't really want a replay, so I'm sure he doesn't want extra time. So you'll be risking £5 million of your transfer kitty on that, will you?

I only said I was tempted.

Manager's prerogative again?

You've got the idea.

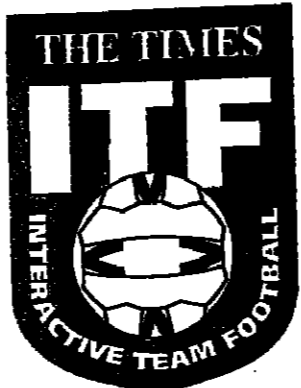
A goal by Gilles Grimandi sent a mystery person's team shooting 40,000 places up the league by scoring 65 points over one week

This week, the FA Cup sixth round picture will be completed as four fifth round replays take place. The Tennents Scottish cup quarter-final line-up is already decided. Three FA Carling Premiership teams will be eliminated, as Arsenal and Crystal Palace, Blackburn and West Ham and Manchester United and Barnsley go head-to-head. Wimbledon will hope to go through at Molineux at the expense of Wolves.

For ITF entrants, whether attempting to progress in the FA Cup league or not, these games offer an opportunity to accrue more ITF points. Do not forget that all entrants with players whose teams remain in the English and Scottish cups score (and, occasionally, lose) points depending on their players' performances in cup games.

In other words, two clean sheets for Tim Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers and England goalkeeper, in victories for his club in home matches this week against West Ham (in the FA Cup) and Leicester (in the FA Carling Premiership), would garner 16 points for any ITF entrant with Flowers in their team (3 points per goalless half, plus one for each victory and appearance). His FA Cup league total would be 8.

However, should Rovers be eliminated from the Cup tomorrow, competitors with



eyes on the FA Cup league prize will be out to replace Flowers with a goalkeeper still in the competition, although he might stay in their "other" side(s). Many ITF entrants have different teams for the main and FA Cup leagues.

**HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?**  
Call the ITF Checkline on **0991 894 643**  
50p a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public calls cost twice as much.



Tim Flowers, who could gain 16 points this week if Blackburn have two victories and he does not concede a goal

Can anyone identify a mystery jumper? An entrant in the Student League, who made this week's highest climb, 39,374 places to 71,719th (5,639th in the Student League) on the strength of a 65-point weekend, omitted to give a name or address. Students, eh?

Some clues: his or her top scorers this week were Peter Schmeichel (16 points), Jorg Albertz (14, thanks to a winning cup replay), Gary Pallister and Gilles Grimandi, whose winning goal against Crystal Palace was his first for Arsenal.

## FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing correct and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF league and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students', youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your two-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF team faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your faxback is **0991 111 333**

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

## LEAGUE UPDATES

- ITF LEAGUE**  
£50,000 top prize  
£1,000 monthly prize
- PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE**  
Professionals choose their fantasy team
- STUDENTS' LEAGUE**  
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag
- WOMEN'S LEAGUE**  
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag
- YOUTH LEAGUE**  
Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1	S Whitfield	838
2	J Gardner	804
3	A Hembrow	801
4	B Fletcher	794
5	C Purdy	787
6	A Adach	783
7	J Peppar	781
8	A Finch	778
9	S Brooks	778
10	L Emery	774
11	C Ruiz-Gumaraes	774
12	M Hussain	768
13	J Woolner	753
14	C Cheshire	749
15	P Johnston	742
16	M Nicol	742
17	S Reader	742
18	M Footwood	729
19	T Seal	729
20	S Allport	729

## STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1	N Wheatley	910
2	T Gardner	870
3	Mr N Wheatley	866
4	J Gardner	824
5	G Wilson	824
6	E Carmichael	777
7	Steven Shipley	770
8	F Ferguson	730
9	K Wade	729
10	C Marfanzczak	724
11	J Windesatt	719
12	J Frost	718
13	N Wheatley	718
14	M Slade	705
15	W Razzak	707
16	G Skovington	701
17	I McGill	683
18	N Saker	682
19	D Garrett	682
20	Z Tacer	688

## YOUTH LEAGUE

1	M Somapala	860
2	D Lewis	858
3	R Wicke	824
4	J Gardner	798
5	M McPhillips	796
6	O Ledgard	796
7	C Oyston	796
8	J Laurence	771
9	N Roberts	746
10	G Richards	730
11	C Marfanzczak	724
12	N Brotherton	720
13	K Tridell	708
14	S Stretes	708
15	J Brady	700
16	S Mawer	687
17	B McMillan	686
18	N McGuinness	686
19	A Simpson	679
20	R Dhanda	679

## ITF LEAGUE

1	S Legg	973
2	Mike Madden	972
3	Mr M Jones	970
4	Job	967
5	Mary Ann Kennedy	964
6	A Luckhurst	948
7	D Shute	942
8	A Luckhurst	942
9	P Turner	929
10	Nevadzki	927
11	Mr M Jones	922
12	Mr P Turner	921
13	A Luckhurst	918
14	P Turner	910
15	P Turner	908
16	N Whalley	908
17	Barbara Pappa Is Bacon	908
18	Malcolm Jackson	907
19	P Turner	903
20	Chris Fordie	900
21	TPF Furious	900
22	G Price	900
23	G Dolan	900
24	P Rows	898
25	P Turner	898
26	G Rainbow	895
27	Mr D Burch	893
28	P Turner	892
29	Susan Melvin	892
30	P Turner	892
31	Susan Melvin	892
32	P Turner	892
33	Wool	890
34	A Luckhurst	890
35	A Luckhurst	890
36	C Burr	889
37	Mary Ann Kennedy	888
38	Jenny Dwyer	887
39	B Berry	887
40	Tim Oldfield	884
41	D Fenton	884
42	D Fenton	884
43	Barbarley	884
44	D Brown	881
45	M D Patel	881
46	H Hunt	880
47	H Hunt	880
48	M D Patel	878
49	M Lindquist	877
50	AJ Hastings	877
51	D Shuter	877
52	D Shuter	874
53	J Headley	874
54	N Bennett	874
55	Mary Ann Kennedy	872
56	Graine Dabnor	872
57	R Lockyer	870
58	S Birchfield	870
59	T Gardner	869
60	Mike Madden	869
61	Mr D Patel	869
62	Mike Allison	867
63	Chris Fordie	867
64	Chris Fordie	867
65	Mr N Wheatley	866
66	J Hunt	864
67	DM Carter	864
68	T Gammage	864
69	Mr M Jones	864
70	K Farhall	864
71	I Ralph	864
72	Kiran R Patel	864
73	D Brown	864
74	P Turner	864
75	Graine Dabnor	864
76	P Turner	864
77	Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	864
78	W Clark	864
79	Andrew Bales	864
80	Henry Wheeler	864
81	J Stuckland	864
82	S Gall	864
83	M Worthington	864
84	Andy Robson	864
85	Michael Huddleston	864
86	Ian Kipling	864
87	Gerald Boylan	864
88	Philip Ward	864
89	Michael Moran	864
90	J Hunt	864
91	Graine Dabnor	864
92	J Kitchin	864
93	G Kooner	864
94	M Fox	864
95	I Clayton	864
96	P Turner	864
97	KL Amoss	864
98	Miss A Staszewicz	864
99	S Windfield	864
100	RP Larkin	864

## PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1	Paul Simpson	598
2	Simon Grayson	541
3	Steve Potts	515
4	Alkage Hestland	513
5	Jonathan Hunt	511
6	Rob Seange	505
7	Robert Lee	498
8	John Salko	488
9	Kevin Gallacher	477
10	David Tuttle	474
11	Richard Shaw	468
12	Dean Blackwell	464
13	Nigel Martin	464
14	Denn Watson	462
15	Phil Babb	457
16	David Baily	457
17	Yocky Sheeham	456
18	Patrick Berger	454
19	Nicky Bun	452
20	Andy Townsend	450
21	Chris Powell	445
22	Kyle Lightbourne	440
23	David Swain	444
24	Bjorn Kusme	444
25	Paul Williams	435
26	Lee Dean	430
27	Kenny Cunningham	421
28	Tim Breacker	421
29	Andrew Little	421
30	Dean Hildesworth	421
31	John Hendrie	418
32	Ugo Ehigbo	412
33	David Backham	405
34	David Whelan	405
35	Colin Hendry	405
36	Frank Labour	402
37	Ian Pascoe	402
38	John Boreland	398
39	Kenny Koller	393
40	Andy Roberts	390
41	Andy Roberts	389
42	Lars Bohinen	389
43	Robin Van Der Laan	387
44	Roger Gies	387
45	Frank Labour	387
46	Samuel Southgate	387
47	Graine L Staus	386
48	Richard Pletcher	382
49	Richard Pletcher	374
50	Lee Sharpe	372
51	Kevin Hitchcock	372
52	Dennis Wise	370
53	Nicky Easton	370
54	Porntas Kasmark	369
55	Jason Eyal	369
56	Steve Clark	368
57	Steve Lomas	368
58	Geoffrey Coadesline	368
59	Geoffrey Coadesline	368
60	Spencer Prior	368
61	Robbie Fowler	368
62	Danny Wilmore	368
63	Andy Sinton	368
64	John Scales	368
65	Mark Wright	368
66	Colin Calderwood	368
67	Neil Redhead	368
68	John Hartson	368
69	Andy Roberts	368
70	John Hartson	368
71	Gary Neville	368
72	Mark Edworthy	368
73	Alan Shearer	368
74	Glavencio Zola	368
75	Mike Whitlow	368

## INTERNET LEAGUE

1	Mike Madden	972
2	Mary Ann Kennedy	966
3	Barbara Pappa Is Bacon	966
4	Graine Dabnor	900
5	P Rows	898
6	Susan Melvin	898
7	Mary Ann Kennedy	898
8	Jenny Dwyer	898
9	Tim Oldfield	887
10	Graine Dabnor	872
11	Mary Ann Kennedy	872
12	Mike Madden	869
13	Mike Allison	869
14	Chris Fordie	867
15	Kiran R Patel	864
16	Graine Dabnor	864
17	Andrew Bales	864
18	Henry Wheeler	864
19	Michael Huddleston	864
20	Andy Robson	864

## FA CUP LEAGUE

1	Mr M Jones	285
2	Mr M Jones	281
3	Susan Melvin	257
4	Mr P Turner	245
5	Mr P Turner	244
6	Jon Freeman	241
7	Susan Melvin	239
8	H & S Management	239
9	J Hunt	233
10	K Farhall	233
11	Mr K Lathby	232
12	M Roberts	232
13	Susan Melvin	232
14	Mr P Turner	231
15	Alexander Kennedy	229
16	Mr P Turner	228
17	Ralph	227
18	G Dolan	226
19	Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	226
20	D Fenton	224

## HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

- Keeps clean sheet (per half) +3 points  
Scores goal +20 points  
Saves penalty +2 points  
Full back/Central defender +3 points  
Keeps clean sheet\* +3 points  
Scores goal +3 points
- Stuffer +2 points  
All players -1 point  
On winning side +1 point  
Appearance\* +1 point  
Scores hat-trick +10 bonus points  
Wins\* +3 points  
Draws +1 point
- Booted -1 point  
Concedes penalty -1 point  
Misses penalty -1 point  
Scores own goal -1 point  
Manager -1 point  
Team losses -1 point
- \* Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points. \*Must have played for 75 minutes in the match (Must have played for 45 minutes in the match)

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF

£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in the FA Cup League.

The manager of the month can be won by any team, no matter where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman (18 or over) you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the Youth League. These all carry separate monthly prizes.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into the FA Cup League. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup league (Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennents Scottish FA Cup) as well as the main ITF league.

## HOW TO ENTER

Entries to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on **0991 405 011**  
From the Republic of Ireland only +44 990 100 305

A new team will score points on future games. 0991 calls cost 50p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of there being more than one league winner, a draw will operate.

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By LineOne and the internet. **LineOne** "Team Football 1997" Call 0800 111 121

It's what you want to know



# Yellow cards: a cautionary tale for ITF entrants

### Players whose names keep appearing in the referee's book are a liability in the delicate game of ITF selection

As soon as he had concluded the foul, late in the game between Newcastle United and Leeds, Rod Wallace knew: hand raised in acknowledgement of the offence as he picked himself up from the St James' Park pitch, he had no doubt that Gary Willard, the referee, would be holding up a yellow card — and that his fifth caution of the season would result in a two-match suspension, which will come into effect after Leeds's sixth round FA Cup tie with Wimbledon on Wednesday.

Wallace's absence, in a closely contested race for the European qualification places in the FA Cup, is a possibility, not to mention a possible Cup replay, could be crucial. Others who went over the limit last weekend include David Ginola, Dean Sturridge and Muzzy Izzet.

This season, players receiving five yellow cards are automatically banned for two matches, with a further two matches if the player reaches the eight caution mark; however, five consecutive guilty appearances allow a player to appeal to have one of his previous cautions nullified. Denis Bergkamp is an example. A sending-off, subject to the referee's report, can result in a ban of between one and three games. An elbowing or kicking offence considered serious enough to merit a red



card for a player not previously shown a yellow one in a match would certainly be a three. At this stage of the season, with important games being played every three or four days, the absence of key players can result in the loss of

league points, or a Cup exit; last weekend, for instance, players sidelined included Tony Adams of Arsenal, Tottenham's Ramon Vega, and Michael Hughes, arguably Wimbledon's most influential player of the season so far. John Beresford managed only one appearance for Southampton, his new club, before suspension forced him to miss two games.

There are ways round the problem: Stéphane Henchoz appeared in reserve game for Blackburn Rovers last week in an attempt to clear a booking; unfortunately he was then unfit to play at Southampton — poetic justice, some might say. Blackburn also appealed against the dismissal of Kevin Gallacher for an alleged elbowing offence in the FA Cup fifth round tie at West Ham, but the appeal was quashed, and Gallacher will miss three games, beginning this Saturday. Leeds have managed to rearrange a league game, which means that two players will complete suspensions before the next round of the Cup.

ITF entrants with transfers to spare may decide that it is worth replacing players who spend too much time in the sin bin. Apart from the loss of ITF points for yellow and red cards, a suspended player, after all, contributes nothing to your selection.

NICK SZCZEPANIK



Mike Reed books Muzzy Izzet, who on Saturday reached five Premiership cautions

### THIS WEEK'S MOVIES

There are no transfers in ITF this week

### HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

**YOU MAY** transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

**EACH TEAM** that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 80 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

**THE LINE** is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

**YOU MAY** make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

**TRANSFERS** made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

**YOUR NEW** player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

**CALLS COST** 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.  
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	P	Y	R	W	W
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	1.50	0	2	8	28
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	13	0	70
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	18	0	62
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	15	2	-16
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn	4.00	0	9	-5	65
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	0	0	2	-37
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0	0	0
10801	J Gould	Celtic	4.00	-3	11	7	-77
10901	E De Geoy	Chelsea	3.00	0	-9	0	64
11001	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	0	0	17
11101	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0	0	0
11201	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	0	23	2	58
11301	M Poom	Derby County	2.50	0	8	-3	73
11401	S Dykstra	Dundee Utd	2.00	0	11	1	32
11501	J Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	0	-2	-3	-1
11601	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	3
11701	T Myhre	Everton	2.00	0	0	0	-6
11801	G Rousseau	Hearts	3.50	0	8	1	54
11901	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	-8
12001	G Gotschalck	Hibernian	1.50	0	0	0	-1
12101	G Marshall	Kilmarnock	1.50	0	-1	-7	-8
12201	N Marjny	Leeds Utd	3.50	0	11	2	87
12301	K Keller	Leicester City	3.00	0	3	0	79
12401	D James	Liverpool	4.00	0	-5	0	75
12501	P Schmeichel	Man Utd	5.00	0	4	16	124
12601	S Horrie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0	0	0
12701	S Given	Newcastle	2.00	0	8	2	29
12801	A Goran	Rangers	5.00	0	8	11	53
12901	K Pearson	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	5	8	16
13001	P Jones	Southampton	2.00	0	0	0	32
13101	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	0	11	0	60
13201	I Walker	Tottenham	2.50	0	3	0	22
13301	L Milosovic	West Ham	2.00	0	0	0	4
13401	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	15	3	85

191 405 011

NEWS

Blair renews bombing threat

Britain is to seek a fresh resolution authorising the immediate bombing of Baghdad should President Saddam Hussein renege on the deal allowing UN weapons inspections in Iraq to resume.

The Prime Minister instructed Britain's Ambassador to seek the new Security Council resolution to make it "absolutely clear that we are not going to be back in this position playing the same game in two or three months"

30 killed by Florida tornadoes

More than 30 people were killed when violent thunderstorms and at least 12 tornadoes ripped through a 75-mile stretch of the tourist resort district of central Florida.

Heart cases review

More than 2,000 heart patients were having their cases reviewed after a consultant crashed his car over a cliff as doubts were raised about his qualifications

High cost of support

The Office of Fair Trading began an investigation into the high cost of replica football kits after claims that clubs are involved in price-fixing

Wanted: judges

Centuries of secrecy surrounding the appointment of senior judges ends today with the publication of the first advertisement for appointment to the High Court bench

Photographers guilty

The two British photographers convicted of false imprisonment, as they chased Arnold Schwarzenegger were sentenced to jail terms

Ulster car bomb

A huge republican car bomb in the Unionist stronghold of Portadown had top loyalists warning of a return to full-scale conflict in Northern Ireland

£65,000 portrait

A portrait of the Duchess of Windsor by Gerald Leslie Brockhurst was bought by the National Portrait Gallery for \$107,000 (£65,250) at the Sotheby's auction of memorabilia from the estate of the Duke and Duchess

Sean Connery row

Downing Street was last night accused of smearing Sean Connery after claims that the Government vetoed plans to give the actor a knighthood

Top (and bottom) of the form

A village primary school that closed after all 20 pupils were withdrawn in protest at low standards reopened to teach one five-year-old boy.

Lost history

Local historical knowledge is being lost because of a price war among archaeologists, it was claimed. Developers were accused of hiring cheaper archaeologists from outside areas

Murder theory

A scheme to capture control of one of Europe's most exclusive holiday resorts may have been behind the murder in Miami of Anthony Pike, a British businessman, police said

Blackout scandal

New Zealand launched an inquiry into why its largest city, Auckland, was plunged into darkness by power blackouts

Powerful women

Powerful women have a key role in India's general election campaign, now entering its final leg. They are known for corruption, murder, banditry, illiteracy or self-interest



Leon, an artist who spent a week in a box without food, emerging from his "prison" at Brighton Media Centre yesterday. Page 3

BUSINESS

Banking: HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland Bank, unveiled a 60 per cent rise in bad debt provisions, including a £175 million charge against loans in South-East Asia

British Airways put Boeing and Airbus into even greater rivalry yesterday when it put a potential £2 billion aircraft order out to both to tender

Cadbury: A war between the cooler cabinets in America's heartland looks possible after the \$724 million takeover of two Midwestern soft drink bottling companies

Markets: The FTSE 100 48.8 points to 5702.8. Sterling fell from 104.9 to 104.4 after a rise from \$1.6361 to \$1.6433 but a fall from DM2.9810 to DM2.9563

SPORT

Football: South Africa formally declared that it would challenge England and Germany for the right to stage the 2006 football World Cup

Cricket: Raman Lamba, a former India Test batsman, died in hospital three days after being hit on the head by the ball while playing in a club match

Rugby union: Kevin Yates, the Bath prop suspended for biting an opponent, is considering High Court action in an attempt to clear his name

Rowing: For the third year in succession one of the presidents will not row in the Boat Race after David Cassidy, of Cambridge, stood down from the race on March 28

ARTS

Girls, girls: On the eve of their first European tour and with the fans fighting for tickets, the Spice Girls work their charm on David Sinclair

Bottom line: Richard Cork on why we should all be grateful for Janet Wolfson de Botton's stunning gift of contemporary works of art to the Tate Gallery

Open day: As the revamped Serpentine Gallery prepares to reopen its doors to the public, the international curator Germano Celant talks about his first show

Revolutionary: The London Symphony Orchestra and MsTielak Rostropovich bring Shostakovich's Third Symphony to the Barbican with all the passion of struggle

FEATURES

Secret of health: "People are seeking workable changes that will help them to maintain good health," says Sandra Cabot, who became a doctor after a dream revealed her "true vocation"

Stall the problem: Dr Thomas Nuttallford explains how to deal easily and quickly with fungal nail infections

Role swap: In two minutes, Jane Gordon found that her life had changed — her daughter had taken her place centre stage

Corporate hospitality: Small firms that sell fun

Complex cases: What might be a better way of dealing with complicated fraud cases? Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, on the options

Oprah's best: A remark about "mad cow disease" has landed Oprah Winfrey in court. And the case has implications for free speech

Saddam Hussein seems to have understood at last that he must offer Bill Clinton a diplomatic victory. If the "breakthrough" announced by Kofi Annan is confirmed, the Iraqi dictator will have seized the only chance to escape bombing

Disillusionment with new Labour: care of mentally ill; Hughes's Dome brainwave; Baby Dome; the Lord's Prayer; reform of Lords; Al angel



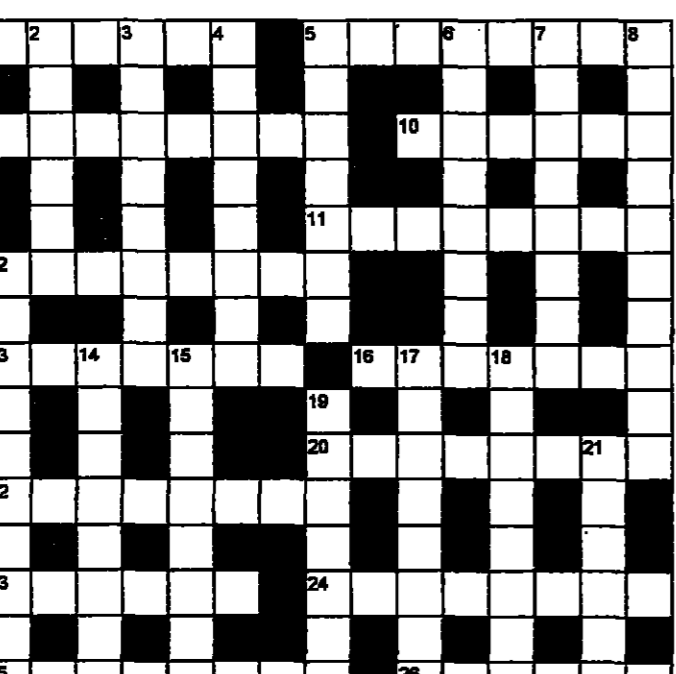
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE Get your mind around the Internet: now you can have a virtual session with a psychiatrist

HOMES How shake-ups in the City are cooling the property boom

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,723



ACROSS 1 Secure parts in order to deliver (6). 5 Pleasing view spoilt by vile man? (8). 9 Dreadfully heartless reactions to outline of plot (8). 10 One joining married couple coming to harm (6). 11 Sea adventurer heading off shipment — nothing heard thereafter (8). 12 Group splitting cost of accommodation in dwelling (8). 13 Sort of student familiar to a higher degree (7). 16 Approval and praise within section of audience (7). 20 Like manual work from servant, say (8). 22 Crack up through failure to obtain initial pass (8). 23 Alternative work — no appeal should be rejected (6). 24 Dress showily in striking habit at first (5,3). 25 Prisoner's hobby, perhaps, following shortish stretch (8). 26 Sits on the fence or other boundaries (6). DOWN 2 Rouse large town almost engulfed by river (6). 3 Spells in prison over lapses (8). 4 Arken to some music that conveys a message (8). 5 Authority for execution of miscreant about to be withdrawn (7). 6 Revolutionary old MP, say, is seen in conferences (8). 7 Sent out East with mandate to replace Duke (8). 8 To capsize, aim shell downwards? (4,6). 12 Awkward judge gets performer overwhelmed by lines (10). 14 Rival male out to disturb leader in race (8). 15 Tom taking up little time with bishop in neat sacrifice (8). 17 Decline to be left suffering (8). 18 Many put inside without question when exposed (8). 19 Taken in when cold, and warmed up (7). 21 Lack of employment has female artiste losing heart (6).

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions UK Weather - All regions 0330 444 910 UK Roads - All regions 0330 401 470

Weather by Fax The Met Office Dial 0376 followed by area number from your fax

World City Weather The Met Office 132 destinations world wide 6 day forecasts

AA Car reports by fax Dial from your fax machine, you may have to set up receive mode

FORECAST

General: Mild England and Wales mainly dry, brighter later with sunny spells. Very little drizzle in NW England and North Wales.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, etc. for various UK locations.

ABROAD

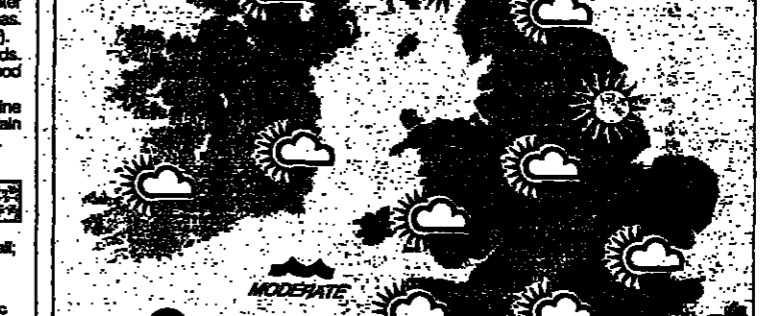
Table with columns for location, sun, rain, snow, etc. for various international locations.

FORECAST

sun. Fresh W to NW wind. Max 15C (59F). 11 SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Du and mly at first with drizzly rain over hills, inland and coasts. Drier and a little brighter later.



Changes to the chart below from noon: High A will drift slowly north with little change of central pressure. Low K will move northeast.



Weather front. Cold front. Occluded front.

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT, TODAY, AM, HT, PM, HT.

Today's highest day temp: Dusseldorf, Aberdeen, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Bolton, Derbyshire, 8C (46F); highest night temp: Siles, 0.5C; highest sunshine: Garmouth, 8.5h.

Times Two Crossword, page 52

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997

Advertisement for travel insurance: However many times you hop across to Europe you're covered with our travel insurance. From £59.95 a year. To enrol call between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday quoting reference TWB02.

Large advertisement for HSBC: Provision is HSBC to charge £615m against bad debt.

السنة 1520

# THE TIMES

# 2

INSIDE SECTION

## 2 TODAY

### BUSINESS

Why Boeing cannot stay stuck on runway  
**PAGE 31**

### ARTS

We're not finished yet, the Spice Girls tell David Sinclair  
**PAGES 36-38**

### SPORT

Battle lines drawn as women's rights split MCC members  
**PAGES 46-52**

### TELEVISION AND RADIO

**PAGES 50, 51**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1998

## Provision is only 'blot' as profits rise 10% to almost £5bn

# HSBC to charge £615m against bad debts

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HSBC HOLDINGS, owner of Midland Bank, yesterday unveiled a 60 per cent rise in bad debt provisions, including a £175 million charge against loans in South-East Asia.

The total charge of £615 million for bad and doubtful debts was the only significant blot on an otherwise solid set of figures for 1997. Pre-tax profit rose 10 per cent to £4.97 billion.

John Bond, chief executive of HSBC, said the £175 million provision for its Asian exposure was sufficient at present, but added: "I cannot tell you whether we will add to that provision at the year's end, or write it back."

HSBC said its total loan exposure to Indonesia, South Korea and Thailand, the three countries which have sought assistance from the International Monetary Fund, amounted to £1.7 billion. This represented about 2 per cent of the group's total assets.

City analysts said that the provision should be viewed as conservative, particularly in the light of the charges made by other UK banks. Barclays, for example, has set aside just £45 million for a potential exposure of up to £1.2 billion to the region.

Mr Bond refused, however, to be drawn on market speculation that Barclays is preparing a £10 billion hostile bid for Standard Chartered, the other so-called "colonial" bank. He said HSBC was not looking for an acquisition in the UK just now, but predicted further consolidation in financial services.

At £4.97 billion, HSBC's pre-tax profit was generally in line with City forecasts. The bank declared a second interim dividend of 30p, taking the total to 50p, a 22 per cent increase on 1996. Mr Bond said he was unlikely to return capital to shareholders while the bank could continue to make good returns on it. Return on capital in 1997 was 21 per cent.

Midland contributed just under a third of the profits attributable to shareholders. Pre-tax profit at the high-street bank rose 28 per cent to £1.63 billion. Its asset base also grew, up 6 per cent to £102 billion. Operating expenses rose by less than 3 per cent, while provisions for bad and doubtful debts fell, partly because of improved recoveries.

Although HSBC does not break out the figures for First Direct, the telephone-based banking subsidiary of Midland, Mr Bond disclosed that the operation generated profits in excess of £10 million. First Direct now has nearly 800,000 customers, after adding a further 150,000 new account-holders in 1997.

HSBC Investment Banking had a poor year, renewing speculation that the bank may withdraw from the market. Attributable profits crumpled 42 per cent to £132 million on the back of trading losses in both debt and equities against a backdrop of significant changes and volatile earnings within the industry. Mr Bond said HSBC remained committed to investment banking and would do so while it remained a profitable business.

Richard Coleman, banking analyst at Merrill Lynch, said that the HSBC figures indicated there was "no credit black-hole" in South-East Asia. He said HSBC should continue to benefit from the flight to quality and forecast a 1998 pre-tax profit of £5.2 billion. But other analysts were less bullish.



John Bond, chief executive, said £175 million of the provisions had been set aside to cover HSBC's Asian exposure and that this should be enough

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5702.8	(-48.8)
FTSE All share	2644.95	(-15.53)
Nikkei	16609.49	(-146.75)
Dow Jones	8405.22	(-8.72)
S&P Composite	1035.62	(+1.41)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	103 1/8%	(103 1/8%)
Yield	5.87%	(5.87%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	12 3/4%	(12 3/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.6473	(1.6382)
London	1.6434	(1.6361)
DM	2.9589	(2.9806)
FF	9.9144	(9.9941)
SFr	2.3854	(2.4234)
Yen	210.25	(208.69)
£ Index	104.4	(104.9)

DOLLAR

London	1.7920	(1.8180)
DM	6.0220	(6.1025)
SFr	127.90	(127.50)
Yen	108.5	(108.8)
£ Index	108.5	(108.8)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	\$14.65	(\$15.10)
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GOLD

London close	\$293.85	(\$296.95)
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## Large named as deputy chairman of Barclays

By RICHARD MILES

SIR ANDREW LARGE, former chairman of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), has been appointed as executive director and deputy chairman of Barclays Bank.

He will replace Sir Peter Middleton who retires from the role of deputy chairman on May 1. Sir Peter will remain as a non-executive director.

Sir Andrew, 55, stepped down as SIB chairman last July after the Treasury announced plans to replace the watchdog and nine other regulators with the Financial Services Authority.

Knighted in 1996, Sir Andrew said yesterday that he hoped to bring his wide experience of financial services, including foreign exchange and treasury, to Barclays. He said his salary would be in line with those of existing directors.

## Shortage of houses puts up prices

By JANET BUSH

SHORTAGES of houses for sale pushed prices up across every region except the North West last month, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

RICS forecasts that average prices are likely to rise about 6 per cent this year, but cautions that there could be a damaging stalemate if potential sellers hold back in the hope of even steeper house price inflation and buyers refuse to pay more.

There had been a marginal rise in houses coming on to the market in quarter to the end of January, but it was insufficient to mitigate the property shortage.

In the South East, 43 per cent of those surveyed reported rising prices, compared with 14 per cent in December. The biggest premiums were being seen for country houses and properties above £300,000.

## Pound's strength prompts lower growth estimate

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITISH economic growth in the final three months of last year has been revised down, largely reflecting a deterioration in exports because of the strength of the pound.

The Office for National Statistics now estimates that the economy grew by 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, giving year-on-year growth of 3.0 per cent. This compares with earlier estimates of 0.5 per cent and 3.1 per cent.

Statisticians said that a sharp rise in Britain's trade deficit, caused by the pound, had knocked the equivalent of 1 per cent off growth in the fourth quarter.

A breakdown of yesterday's figures underlined the policy dilemma facing the Chancellor and the Bank of England, highlighting a dramatic divergence between the domestic economy and the internationally traded sector.

Service sectors grew by 1.1 per cent while industrial production, sensitive to the exchange rate, fell 0.2 per cent. Overseas, contracted by 1.1 per cent. Consumer spending rose by 1.3 per cent and was up 4.5 per cent on a year ago.

Jonathan Loyne, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said the economy had evidently begun slowing last year and further interest rate rises were unnecessary. But he said that growth remained dangerously unbalanced. "As long as these imbalances persist, there is a serious risk that the economy slows too abruptly over the next year or so," he said.

Economists at ABN Amro said that buoyant services and pay pressures were a recipe for a further rate rise.

## BA puts aircraft order out to tender

By ADAM JONES

BRITISH Airways spurred Boeing and Airbus into even greater rivalry yesterday when it put a potential £2 billion order out to tender.

Announcing that BA is looking to buy up to 100 aircraft for its regional subsidiaries, Bob Ayling, chief executive, encouraged the pair to present him with new ways of financing the deal.

BA wants other parties to bear some of the capital risk of buying aircraft, leaving the airline to concentrate on the revenue side of its business.

In the past, this has taken the form of a finance lease or some form of operating lease. Mr Ayling described operating leases as "conventional" and asked for new proposals.

Despite the plea for innovation, one industry observer said financing proposals would take a back seat to cost and delivery considerations.

Both Airbus and Boeing are increasing production to keep up with massive demand. BA needs up to 100 short haul jets to meet noise regulations that come into force in 2002. It says up to 30 aircraft would be delivered from September 1999 in the first wave of the order, estimated at £400 million to £600 million initially.

Boeing tried to neutralise its image as a "foreign" manufacturer yesterday. It said it bought UK goods and services worth about \$1 billion (£610 million) last year, from about 90 UK suppliers.

## Cadbury raises stakes in US soft drinks war

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR



Sunderland: better marketing for Dr Pepper and 7Up

A WAR of the cooler cabinets in America's heartland looks possible after the \$724 million (£438.8 million) takeover of two Mid-Western soft drink bottling companies by Cadbury Schweppes and the Carlyle Group, a venture capitalist.

The UK food and drinks company, which owns Dr Pepper and 7Up, has set up The American Bottling Company, a joint venture with Carlyle, which is buying Beverage America and Select Beverages, two Mid-West bottling companies. The venture will be heavily debt-financed with just \$300 million in equity of which Cadbury's share is 40 per cent.

The deal ends a period of uncertainty over the future of the two bottling companies which account for 30 per cent of Dr Pepper and 7Up volumes. John Sunderland, chief executive of Cadbury's, said that the independent bottling system needed to consolidate into fewer bottlers with fewer plants.

Mr Sunderland said that the American bottling company would provide better marketing for Dr Pepper and 7Up. The company would redeploy savings from reduced overheads and plant closures into increased investment in the cooler cabinets in convenience stores and gas stations where bottlers earn better margins than in grocery stores. Typically, Coke and Pepsi derive 10 per cent of sales and 18 per cent of profits from cooler cabinets and vending machines while independents get only half of that.

Analysts said that Cadbury was investing in the most competitive soft drinks market in the US. One said: "They are talking of increasing the shelf space two or three times. Price competition could follow." Cadbury said the joint venture envisaged an exit formula for the two investors which could be a flotation. In the meantime, the vehicle will seek to buy further small Mid-Western bottlers.

Cadbury Schweppes forecasts the deal will be earnings enhancing in 1999 and reckons that American Bottling Company's margins can be raised from 7 per cent to 11 per cent over five years. It also forecasts sales growth of 3 per cent per annum from last year's turnover of \$937 million.

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# A dinner date too far

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Your first visit to Chez Nico, sir? I think you'll find it ideal for those informal business chats. In the corner, that's Mr Taylor, the young chap who runs Barclays Bank. He's in here all the time, sir. Now I could tell you a thing or two about his guests...

Valentine's Day may have passed for another year, but there is still plenty of courting going on in the City. How fitting for the suitor to choose not the air-conditioned rooms of an investment bank, but one of London's swankiest restaurants.

If those old romantics of the Square Mile are to be believed, Martin Taylor wooed his Standard Chartered counterpart, Malcolm Williamson, with dinner and then, over the port and brandies, popped the question.

More prosaic reports point out that Mr Taylor would almost certainly have waved away the digests and that there is no reason why this dinner date was particularly extraordinary: bankers meet their peers from other organisations all the time. But, after his approach to NatWest, Mr Taylor is cast in the role of flirt. The only clear message to emerge yesterday was that, if there had been an approach to Standard Chartered, it was rebuffed, leaving only the unattractive prospect of a £10 billion hostile bid. Standard Chartered looks cheap at the moment — its share price has almost halved amid the un-

certainty of the Asian markets. But yesterday's news of HSBC's hefty provisions does nothing to allay those fears, and even at this price, a hostile bid makes little sense, given the huge element of goodwill involved.

Consolidation is inevitable in the banking world, as Mr Taylor has pontificated — but friendly comings together, rather than bruising fights will be the way to accomplish it.

So the City is left wondering what on earth Mr Taylor is playing at and, more seriously, where he is going. While the acquisition of Standard Chartered would turn Barclays into an international bank overnight, such a deal would do little to consolidate its position in the UK retail and commercial markets, or to cut costs.

The City may also have something to say about Mr Taylor's courting methods. It is more usual for a company to ask its investment bank to sound out the target before chief executives broach a deal. Mr Taylor appears to have side-stepped this formal process, perhaps in the interests of economy. Having seen the BZW accounts he knows just how much a corporate financier can charge for a little

investigation of marriage prospects. But his method does make him a hostage to fortune. If he is spotted having dinner with Peter Davis, chief executive of Prudential, the onlooker might jump to the conclusion that the two are contemplating a merger.

That may be to misread his motives. As a former financial journalist, Mr Taylor knows all too well the value of a good meal. Perhaps he is just nurturing his contacts.

## Print's charming thanks to Investcorp

The chaps at Watmoughs have every reason to be grateful to Schroders. The merchant bankers have more than earned their fee in persuading Investcorp to add almost £1 a share to what Quebecor was prepared to pay for the printing company.

Allied Colloids, which thought

Schroders had done the company proud by producing Swiss chemicals company Ciba to trump the Hercules offer, may now feel that perhaps the 50p premium was just a little skimpy. But rarely do white knights come quite so generous as Investcorp. The Bahraini-based organisation has access to the untold wealth of sheikhs and leaves haggling over a few pence to those who must shop in the bazaars.

It prefers to operate in style, and has a penchant for brand names such as Gucci and Saks. There was some surprise last year that it should have opted to buy into the unglamorous business of motorway service stations, but Michael Guthrie, who once ran Mecca, convinced Investcorp that Welcome Break was a dream of a deal.

Now Investcorp, whose management committee reads like a cast list for the Desert Song-meets-Wall Street, has de-

ecided to move into the printing business. Putting Watmoughs together with BPC will create a company with clout and put an end to the interminable speculation about when BPC will come to the stock market. The company, assembled by Robert Maxwell, has shown as little ability to float as his former chairman.

Investcorp is committing around £600 million to its move into printing and can be expected to engineer quite a shake up in putting the two businesses together. It does not content itself with the role of passive investor: at Gucci, for instance, it was Investcorp which gave the Italian firm, riven with family feuds, a new lease of life.

It is highly unlikely that Quebecor will be able to top the Investcorp offer, so it was resorting to muttering about "public interest" issues raised by the knockout bid. The Watmoughs directors appear unconcerned by such suggestions.

But the deal is raising a question mark over the future for hostile bids. With both Allied Colloids and Watmoughs being rescued by friendly faces, why is there no one riding to the aid of Argos?

The chances are that Investcorp, with its retail leanings, took a look but chose not to interfere.

## Railtrack on time for channel deal

Having dynamically left green belt policy on the course the Tories had set it, John Prescott can now take another big negative decision. What can he salvage of the fast rail link that was to speed Britons and their wares from North of Hampstead to the Continent?

Not a lot, is the crude answer. The new Eurostar service is as profitable as our old railways. So the £4 billion development needed to fulfil the ambitions of Parliament or London and Continental Railways is not viable.

Railtrack estimates, however, that it could finance a fast link to London via the existing terminal at Waterloo. We can then pretend to Brussels that the rest is coming

later. That should attract Mr Prescott. Any fast link should lure some traffic off the roads to compensate for all the extra cars going to and from his new greenfield estates.

Mr Prescott wants to avoid EU scrutiny of a switch from the doomed LCR plan to a cosy deal with Railtrack so he may try to persuade Railtrack to take a controlling stake in LCR. But unless he has gone soft in the head, Railtrack's Sir Bob Horton would surely not let his own shareholders assume LCR's sunken losses or offer a free ride to Richard Branson and others in the failed consortium.

There is a bigger dilemma. By maintaining the fiction that the link will be completed later, Mr Prescott will for ever blight most of the best brownfield sites in the South East, condemning thousands more acres of greenbelt to the steamroller.

## Riding out the storm

HERE is a novel twist on the corporate governance debate.

Bob Riding, the chairman of AIM-quoted Conister Trust, reckons that complying with the exhortations of Harriet et al is costing his company, a small Isle of Man-based finance house, a tenth of pre-tax profits. He reasons that the only way to bring down the relative cost is to expand, so he is off on a buying spree, as soon as he can perk up his share price.

## General Cable in talks with suitors

By Raymond Snoddy  
MEDIA EDITOR

GENERAL CABLE, the French-controlled cable company, has admitted being in a number of discussions that "could go on to take the form of an offer".

General Cable has long been seen as a potential takeover target in the rapidly consolidating cable industry. Talks seem to have become more serious in the past couple of weeks after NTL's £600 million agreed offer for Comcast UK's cable interests.

The proposed deal has stimulated discussion in the industry because Telewest, the second-largest cable group, has stake in two of the four Comcast franchises — Birmingham Cable and Cable London. General, controlled by Compagnie Générale des Eaux, also has a 45 per cent stake in Birmingham Cable. The Comcast partners have the right to match the price offered by a predator for the shared franchises.

General's main discussions are thought to be with the two largest cable groups, Cable & Wireless Communications and Telewest.

# Watmoughs agrees to counter-offer from Investcorp

By Fraser Nelson

WATMOUGHS, the paper and packaging company fighting a £176 million hostile bid from Quebecor of Canada, has agreed to a £250 million counter-offer from Investcorp, the Bahrain investment bank (see Commentary, this page).

The takeover is part of a three-way deal which will merge Watmoughs with the British Printing Company (BPC), which has also been acquired by Investcorp for an undisclosed sum.

Patrick Walker, founder and chief executive of Watmoughs, stands to make more than £2 million from selling his shares and, according to his share options, Richard Warner, a mem-

ber of Investcorp's management committee, said the company would invest "well over £100 million" in both companies so they could better compete with their cheaper European rivals. He would not say whether any plants were to be shut down, or any jobs lost.

He added that the company had been attracted to Watmoughs for its presence in Spain and Hungary, and by the advantages to be gained by adding new presses in the UK.

The agreed takeover came through just minutes after Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said she would have no objections to

Quebecor's takeover of Watmoughs. Quebecor last night suggested that, in merging with BPC, the enlarged Watmoughs may present far more dangerous regulatory concerns.

The enlarged group will have annual sales of £560 million, and is expected to have 60 per cent of the UK newspaper supplement market.

Watmoughs yesterday unveiled pre-tax profits of £26 million (£22 million) last year, taking earnings to 25.4p (21.7p). Redundancy costs of £800,000 were offset by a £5 million profit from the sale of its shares in Christie's International.



Dr Julian Bloch, front, chief executive, and Ian Yeoman, finance director of Ultra Electronics, which made a pre-tax profit of £18.1 million, for a 7.2p payout Tempus, page 30

# Dunloe forced to lift bid for Ewart

By Kathy Lipari

A WHITE KNIGHT bidder entered the tussle for Ewart, the Irish property company, yesterday forcing Dunloe, the original hostile bidder, to lift its offer to 80p a share.

Moyné, a private Northern Ireland company, waded into the battle making an agreed bid at 79p a share, valuing Ewart at £25.8 million.

However, late yesterday, Dunloe, with a rebuffed bid of 75p a share on the table, said it had bought 1.06 million shares at 80p each, lifting its stake in Ewart to 29.48 per cent. Noel Smyth, the Dunloe chairman who sits on the Ewart board, had previously built up a 26 per cent interest.

Ewart directors had rejected two prior offers from Dunloe, but the situation was complicated by a declaration from Brian O'Connor, Ewart's chairman, last week that he would accept Dunloe's 75p a share bid for his 16 per cent stake, the day after his directors rejected it.

Barry Gilligan, Ewart's chief executive, said yesterday that Mr O'Connor's actions had been both damaging and disappointing to the group. He said that the company was talking to its lawyers and the Takeover Panel about the matter.

Ewart last night advised shareholders to take no action until a board meeting today, when Dunloe's latest offer would be considered.

Mr O'Connor, a businessman based in Hong Kong, was in Los Angeles yesterday, but declined to comment. He has agreed to sell his stake to Dunloe at a trigger point that would give it majority control.

Ewart shares closed 3½p stronger at 78½p yesterday.

## TDG to return £109m from sales

SHARES in Transport Development Group (TDG) soared yesterday after it pledged to return up to £109 million — more than 40 per cent of its prior market capitalisation — to shareholders on May 15 (Adam Jones writes).

The distribution and hire company said that it would

raise the money, representing up to 80p a share, through a disposal programme that would focus TDG on higher-growth logistics markets and move it out of the hire market. The shares rose from 189½p to 250p.

TDG said a holder of 1,000 ordinary shares would receive about £800 and 565 new

ordinary shares in exchange for their holding. The company also announced yesterday that pre-tax profit fell from £35.2 million to £30.8 million in 1997, after absorbing a £3.9 million exceptional charge that included the £3.8 million cost of closing a business in its consumer division.

## SMG drops Ulster TV ambitions

The Scottish Media Group has shed its ambition to buy Ulster Television and sold its 18.2 per cent stake in the ITV company at a £3.5 million profit.

SMG, whose interests include Scottish Television and Grampian Television, said it offered 240p a share for Ulster, but Ulster had rejected this. SMG sold its stake for £23.9 million to CanWest, a Canadian broadcaster, which now has 29.9 per cent of Ulster, the effective maximum for a non-EU investor in an ITV company.

## Ushers expands

Ushers, the brewer, has acquired 16 pubs in south and southwest England, giving it 550. The 16 include five Wishing Well branded pubs within the M25, bought for £3 million. The other eleven, of which seven are being bought from Whitbread, are thought to be costing more than £2 million.

## Arriva shuffle

Gordon Hodgson, chief executive of Arriva, the transport group formerly called Cowi, is to become executive chairman, handing his post to Michael Gwilt, managing director. Sir James McKinnon moves from chairman to deputy chairman. Tempus, page 30

## SocGen buys

Société Générale, the French bank, is buying Cowen & Co, a US brokerage specialising in the technology and healthcare sectors, for \$615 million (£374 million). Bloomberg

## Shield choice

Shield Diagnostics, which has developed a new heart-disease test, has made Jane Karwowski its finance director.

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STOCK MARKET



Stock Market Writer of the Year

High-flying shares are brought down to earth

SHARE prices got off to another flying start but, after hitting a new all-time high, they ran out of steam.



Sir Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, saw shares leap 56p

With the banks failing to fire on all cylinders, for a change, and Wall Street re-summing trading after the weekend break on a hesitant note, the cracks began to appear in investor confidence.

Turnover was high with 2.12 million shares changing hands in what is normally a 10,000 share market.

Early interest focused on the banks. Standard Chartered dipped 22 1/2p at 742p after denying it was merger talks with rival Barclays.

Leslie Wise Group also responded positively to news of a bid approach with a jump of 2 1/2p at 14p. The clothing manufacturer says it is in talks which may lead to an offer being made.

Full year figures from HSBC, the Midland Bank came in towards the lower end of expectations. The shares responded by touching £16.50 but later rallied to £17.75.

Plans to return £109 million, or 80p to shareholders, returned Transport Development Group, 60p dearer at 250p. The handout is part of the logistics group's ongoing financial restructuring.

There were signs of last minute jitters among the insurance composites ahead of the start of a busy week on the dividend front.

General Cable, in a late run adding 8p at 117p after it emerged that the company was in bid talks. The shares, which were floated in 1995,

to have taken a cautious stance on the shares in the wake of last week's disappointing numbers.

Wattmough Holdings, up 26 1/2p at 345p, has found a white knight that will enable it to defend itself from an aggressive bid approach.

The agreed bid from the Dutch company, BSN lifted Code Group 20 1/2p to 185p. BSN is offering the equivalent of 100p a share valuing the software specialist at £52.9 million.

Rank Group dropped 5 1/2p to 334 1/2p. Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, is said

to have taken a cautious stance on the shares in the wake of last week's disappointing numbers.

Plans to return £109 million, or 80p to shareholders, returned Transport Development Group, 60p dearer at 250p.

The handout is part of the logistics group's ongoing financial restructuring. It coincided with the announcement of lower profits last year.

An upbeat trading session from Deltron Electronics was good news for the shares, up 12p at 144 1/2p.

Table with 2 columns: Index Name, Value, Change. Includes Dow Jones, S&P Composite, Nikkei Average, etc.

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Cadbury's sweet deal

CADBURY SCHWEPPE'S bottling deal displays some fancy footwork. Having declared itself not to be a soft drinks bottler, Cadbury was reluctant to buy up two drifting independent bottlers that were hindering the growth of Dr Pepper and 7Up.

Mid-West bottlers could raise it further. But the long-term question facing Dr Pepper and 7Up is about top-line sales and gross margins, not operating efficiencies.

The merged American Bottlers should very quickly recoup the \$35 million restructuring charge by shedding three out of the four head offices and consolidating some of the nine bottling plants.

what the next big move will be, however. Mayflower's task as a busmaker here, a tank and luxury carmaker there—does not exactly look predictable and so it is unerving to hear Mr Simpson say he has £250 million of cash available for acquisitions.

Yet the bloom has rather faded from Mayflower since its ill-advised tilt at Vickers last year. Its shares are used to trouncing the FTSE Engineering Vehicles index, but since September 1997 they have underperformed by about 17 per cent.

The operational performance has not been bad. Yesterday's figures were pretty strong, and SCSM, its US parent-maker, has headed down and appears a good acquisition.

There is little clear sign of what the next big move will be, however. Mayflower's task as a busmaker here, a tank and luxury carmaker there—does not exactly look predictable and so it is unerving to hear Mr Simpson say he has £250 million of cash available for acquisitions.

Although some programmes have been delayed, £56 million of work for Nimrod 2000 aircraft and an important support order from the US Navy have helped to boost Ultra's order book by more than 30 per cent to £229 million.

Ultra ELECTRONICS is a small defence contractor that is continuing to make solid progress in an industry dominated by giants.

Arriva is taking over the helm of the Cowi Group, Gordon Hodgson has been keeping himself busy by dismissing Neil Pykett, the head of its car hire division, and then re-naming the whole group Arriva.

Despite the Government's attempts to rein in defence spending, Ultra remains sanguine, pointing to the forecast increase in equipment expenditure.

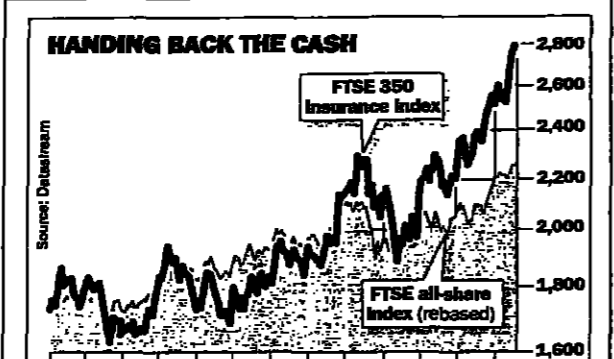
Rightly or wrongly, the UK's transport stocks are driven by deals. The sector leaders made rich pickings from bus and rail privatisation, and their shares rise on the hope that they can repeat this trick overseas.

Arriva has purged the name of its founder but has achieved little else. The shares have underperformed the transport sector by 23 per cent over the past year, and now earnings growth is expected to slip into single figures for the first time since the recession.

At 97 times forecast 1998 earnings, the shares may seem remarkably cheap for a company that remains well-positioned in the bus market. But unless the company makes some bolder moves they may remain cheap for some time to come.

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There were signs of last minute jitters among the insurance composites ahead of the start of a busy week on the dividend front.

General Cable, in a late run adding 8p at 117p after it emerged that the company was in bid talks. The shares, which were floated in 1995,

to have taken a cautious stance on the shares in the wake of last week's disappointing numbers.

Plans to return £109 million, or 80p to shareholders, returned Transport Development Group, 60p dearer at 250p.

The handout is part of the logistics group's ongoing financial restructuring. It coincided with the announcement of lower profits last year.

An upbeat trading session from Deltron Electronics was good news for the shares, up 12p at 144 1/2p.

Rank Group dropped 5 1/2p to 334 1/2p. Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, is said

to have taken a cautious stance on the shares in the wake of last week's disappointing numbers.

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LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURE

Table with 5 columns: Instrument, Period, Open, High, Low, Settle, Val. Includes Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, etc.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes Base Rate, Treasury Bills, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Includes Dollar, Swiss Franc, etc.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Bullion & Co)

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Price. Includes Bullion Open, Gold, Silver, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes Mtd Rates for Feb 23, etc.

AMERICAN STOCK MARKET

Table with 2 columns: Company, Price, Change. Includes AMF Inc, AMEC Corp, etc.

ASIAN STOCK MARKET

Table with 2 columns: Country, Company, Price, Change. Includes Australia, Austria, etc.

EUROPEAN STOCK MARKET

Table with 2 columns: Country, Company, Price, Change. Includes Argentina, Australia, etc.

AFRICAN STOCK MARKET

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ASIAN STOCK MARKET

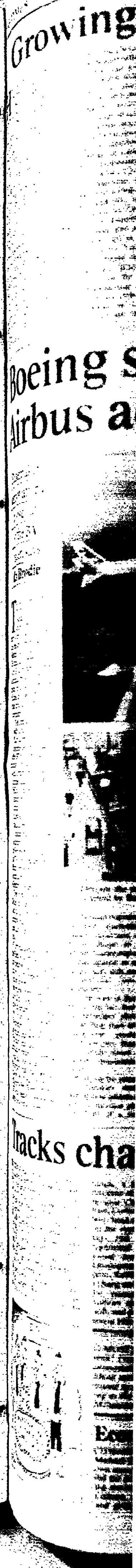
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EUROPEAN STOCK MARKET

Table with 2 columns: Country, Company, Price, Change. Includes Argentina, Australia, etc.

AFRICAN STOCK MARKET

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# Growing influence of the task force

**H**ospital waiting lists are not all that have enjoyed prodigious growth this winter. The Government's desire to appear hyperactive has led to a remarkable proliferation of "task forces" — committees of outside experts charged with coming up with policy solutions for particular problems. At the last count, there were 22 task forces, tackling everything from the so-called "millennium bug" to youth justice via football and those dreaded waiting lists.

The task force is not an entirely new phenomenon: the previous Government was not averse to using them to help develop new policies. However, it has taken Labour, which is determined to restore some military discipline to government, to popularise the term. A task force has become Labour's "something must be done" response, in contrast to

the review group, which seems to say "we would rather not do anything if we can avoid it".

The rise of the task force is not simply a question of semantics. It provides a national way for the Government to fulfill its pledge of using more outside expertise, and especially people with business experience, in the development of policy. Most of Labour's favourite businessmen have found a niche. Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods and a long-standing Labour supporter, heads the Better Regulation Task Force. Alan McGee, founder of Creation Records and a Labour Party donor, sits on the Creative Industries Task Force. The Government has even found Richard Branson two positions — on the Tobacco Sports Sponsorship and Creative Industries Task Forces.

The House of Commons Select Committee on Public

Administration has been critical of the lack of openness in the selection procedure for seats on the new task forces. At present, the department concerned presents its list of preferred candidates, which is then vetted by Downing Street. The select committee is worried that Labour's task forces could become dogged by sleaze allegations similar to those that faced the Conservatives over quango appointments.

Yet the parallel with quangos is of limited value. Task forces do not disperse the money but drive policy. The majority of posts are unpaid — the only notable exception

being that of Adrian Montague, the head of the Football Task Force, can also hardly be defined as New Labour.

Of more concern than the task force selection procedure is the lack of formal guidelines on a task force's role. The Government provides guidance on the issues it wants tackled. After that, task forces are free to define their own mandate and working practices. The Better Regulation Task Force has committed itself to producing an annual report, as well as regular pamphlets on individual aspects of policy, to ensure that it maintains a degree of transparency in its work. Making this practice a requirement of all task forces might be one way to ensure that task forces do not degenerate into aimless talking shops.

There are also problems with the chain of accountability. Task forces nominally

report to a minister in the "lead" department. Most, however, operate at an inter-departmental level, which is reflected in the shared selection of the members of the committee and a continual need to cross-refer the task force's work. This blurred chain of command suits Downing Street, which does not mind if a little free-thinking sends a few shots across the bows of certain departments.

No 10's concealed involvement explains the real reason for the sudden expansion of task forces. The system waters down departmental control, makes sure that Downing Street's friends are kept closely involved, and provides an arms-length way of curbing ministers down to size. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, can hardly be relishing the next report from the NHS waiting list group.

## OF POLITICS



NEIL MACKINNON

Heritage Minister who chairs the Football Task Force, can also hardly be defined as New Labour.

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There are also problems with the chain of accountability. Task forces nominally

## MARKETING

# A red-letter week in world of 'junk mail'

**T**he UK direct mail industry has scored something of a victory this week. It appears that its arch-enemy, the filterer, is retreating. After years of seeing their "junk mail" thrown in the bin, the companies that spend £323 million a year marketing their products and services by post can claim finally to be getting through to decision-makers.

According to a survey out this week on changes in business direct mail, businesses can take heart that their budgets are not being slashed. It found that twice as many managers open their own mail as did in 1991, when the survey was first conducted. This is music to the direct marketing industry's ears. In the world of corporate correspondence, the biggest hurdles direct mail has to negotiate are the postroom, the clerical assistant and the secretary. It is these groups — dubbed "filterers" — that have "protected their charges" — known as "targets" — from "junk mail" for so long.

Where have all the filterers gone?

Downsizing in medium-sized to larger companies has taken its toll. The number of business managers who have someone to open their mail before they see it has halved since 1991 to just 15 per cent. The postroom, too, has seen its influence decline. In 1991, 20 per cent of those who opened direct mail before the manager saw it, worked in the postroom. This figure has now fallen to just 4 per cent.

However, a letter's destiny still lies in the hands of the real gatekeeper — the secretary. According to the survey, secretaries are still the likeliest filterers of mail, and they are the hardest to bypass.

Jo Howard-Brown, managing director of Direct Mail Information Service, the consultancy that commissioned NOP Business Research to conduct the survey among nearly 200 business managers and filterers, says that although the news is broadly cheering, some things have not changed since 1991.

"They remain an unruly bunch. They are told to pass on the mail, but they are still not doing so. It remains one of the biggest barriers."

The gap between theory and practice is, however, narrowing. About half failed

to pass on items in 1991. This figure has now dropped to just over a third.

So if there are fewer secretaries and they are slightly less disobedient, why is a third of direct mail still going straight in the bin? "What has changed is that the manager is actually getting to see the mail whereas before the decision on whether it has passed on, filed or thrown away was being made by the secretary," says Howard-Brown.

It is encouraging news when one takes into account some of the survey's other findings, namely, that direct mail is becoming more targeted and more relevant to recipients and that business managers regard it as more important. The volume of business mail (a third of all mail or three billion items a year) may have remained stable, but tolerance towards it has risen.

However, if the average mail-out is to survive stricter scrutiny, it must satisfy basic criteria. It must be relevant to the target, the envelope must have the right name and address and there must be no duplicates. Crucially, it should not masquerade as personal correspondence. Although direct mail labelled "private and confidential" often gets past a filterer, the survey shows that much post is passed on unopened only because it is regarded as "personal", the inevitable unmasking of the charade will antagonise the recipient.

"It is best to be open from the start," says Gill Ryan, the direct-response manager of Viking Direct, the office supplies business.

She sends out catalogues in clear plastic wrappers with a personalised letter indicating special offers or relevant products. "If you are offering a good service, then you should tell them about it at the earliest possible opportunity," she says.

BT, which sends mailings to 1.5 million businesses a year, uses a variety of methods to try to ensure that letters are not blocked.

Patrick Collins, BT's head of marketing for its business of customer division, said: "We use anything from large pink envelopes to putting cryptic questions such as 'How can you be more efficient on the move?', which makes the letter more enticing."

JULIAN LEE

# Boeing stuck on the runway as Airbus adds to production woes

**Planemaker cannot afford to lose out on the BA tender, says Ian Brodie**

**T**his should have been the best of times for Boeing, the world's largest aircraft company. Orders for new commercial jets are at record levels. Mergers with McDonnell Douglas and the defence division of Rockwell International eliminated the only American rival for building passenger planes and vaulted Boeing to the front rank of Pentagon contractors.

Yet Boeing is having to cope with all manner of troubles. Last autumn, it shut down assembly lines for the 747 and the 737 for a full month at its plants in the Pacific northwest. Cutting production, inefficiencies, Boeing took a \$1.6 billion (\$970 million) charge against earnings. A further charge of \$1.4 billion was taken to deal with the McDonnell Douglas merger.

In addition, it has announced yet another billion-dollar charge in 1998 for developing the family of 737 twin-jets. It means that Boeing's profit on the first 400 aircraft known as the 737 Next Generation will be zero.

These are the planes that Boeing wants to sell to BA, but yesterday BA revealed the company would have to compete against Airbus for the order.

To compound Boeing's woes, the Federal Aviation Administration began peering around its factories following reports that bolts or fasteners may have been missing from the tail section of the 737. The crash in Sumatra in December, killing all 104 on board, FAA inspectors found no assembly problems that would affect flight safety, but did uncover minor quality control problems.

What has gone wrong with the company that stamped its name on the Jet Age from the rollout of the first Boeing 707 in 1957 and became respected around the world as the epitome



Despite the success of aircraft such as the 767 and a bulging order book, including a \$3 billion Chinese deal signed by Ron Woodard, bottom right, Boeing's Phil Condit, top right, is worried by the growth of Airbus

of American engineering expertise and marketing muscle. Equally important, can Boeing get in shape to retain its industry leadership and go head to head against its sole remaining and very wily competitor for commercial jets, Airbus Industrie?

At the root of Boeing's problems is the fact that that building passenger planes is more demanding than any other assembly-line production, far more complex than producing cars. Jumbo planes can have six million components, including rivets.

Bringing the pieces together is an inventory challenge that Boeing now admits it failed as it tried to increase plane production from 18 a month to 43.

Computers using 400 different programs could not communicate with each other. Paperwork overflowed — a thousand technical drawings were involved just in the layout of a 747 bulkhead.

More than 38,000 new workers were taken on for the production build-up but there was barely enough time to train them. Just as bad, suppliers who had cut back when an earlier boom ended in 1990 struggled to meet the renewed demand for parts.

To its credit, Boeing's management saw inadequacies looming throughout the production chain and embarked on a billion-dollar overhaul. A reform team numbering 2,000 is engaged in re-thinking design

and production from nose cone to tail fin.

Customer choice will be curbed. Those 400 programs are being reduced to four compatible systems. Worker input to trim production times has produced astounding economies, inventory flow lines are being unlogged. The entire project is so massive that it will take another two years to complete, even while production targets continue to ratchet up.

Wall Street has been largely sympathetic. Boeing shares sank from a high of \$60 to \$43, but by mid-February they were back above \$52 despite year-end figures showing a loss of \$178 million on revenue of \$45.8 billion. Phil Condit, chairman, predicts revenue this year will

be in the \$55 billion range with most of the growth in commercial jets, but with help from military aircraft and deliveries for the international space station.

Analysts rate Boeing's shares a buy or hold, definitely not a sell. "I'm still bullish on Boeing," said Wolfgang Demisch, aerospace specialist for Bankers Trust. "Washing out all the deficiencies is a slow process, but there isn't anything that is not fixable."

Still, Asia's economic crisis may have an impact on deliveries to airlines in the region. So far no cancellations have been announced, but Boeing reckons 60 planes out of 300 on order could be at risk.

Two recent Airbus setbacks have given Boeing breathing space. One was the delay by at least nine months until summer 2004 for initial deliveries of the proposed 550-seat superjumbo, the A3XX. That gives Boeing more time to decide whether to build a competing aircraft, possibly a stretched 747. Second, narrow margins have cast doubts on Airbus plans to build a 100-seat jet in China. If true, the Boeing 717 could enjoy a large window of opportunity in the short-haul market.

By then, with its production quandary solved, Boeing expects to be profitable once more and hoping that its contrails can again soar ahead of the competition.

# Tracks changed

**R**AILTRACK has, ever so quietly, found a new director of property. Bob Hill is there until April after which he will be on for a hefty compensation payment, but Dick Cheney, his replacement, started work at Railtrack's Euston Square head office yesterday. The split is amicable, but certainly not on Hill's part, voluntary, and it messages a big shake-up of Railtrack's huge property interests.

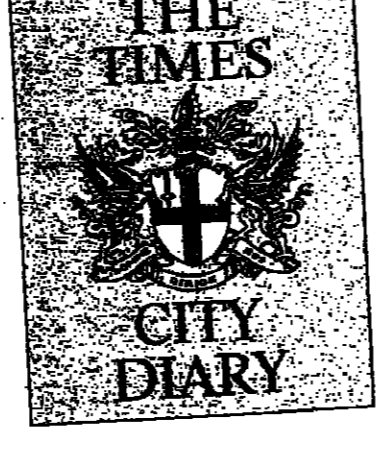
"Bob's done a great job for us over the years. Time to move on," says Gerald Corbett, Railtrack's chief executive, who will say no more. His

hands, I fear, cannot be entirely innocent of the stain of Hill's blood, because Cheney is an old mucker from Corbett's Redland days, having been head of property there. My main concern on the viaduct in the green anorak on the viaduct was felt to be a bit traditional and bureaucratic — he joined from the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, as it happens. Railtrack does not see the need to hang on to every last railway arch, for example, while some larger stations are ripe for joint ventures with real property developers. And it seems Hill did not like selling things.



**□ MOST pessimistic headline of the week? From Scottish Widows, in an investment briefing that worries about world stock market volatility caused by all those computers crashing as the new century arrives: "The Millennium Could Be Here Soon."**

**Economic force**  
CITIBANK'S Neil Mackinnon and Michael Burke are setting up their own economics consultancy. The pair did the proper thing yesterday, leaving messages on their voice-mail at Citibank saying they had resigned and giving mobile phone numbers.



Except that Mackinnon's phone went on the blink. The new firm of Burke & Mackinnon — sounding a little like a pair of Scottish body-snatchers, but let it pass — starts work in four weeks when the Citibank contractual shackles come off.

Burke, whose phone worked perfectly, explained that by offering clients what they ask for rather than producing rears and rears, the two hope to avoid their work ending up, as with so much economic research, unread and in the bin. And how did Burke get his name first? "There was a long, long battle between myself and Neil as to who would get the top billing," says Burke. Who suddenly remembers his own days in financial journalism. "That was a joke, by the way."

## Tied down

**A**T THE HSBC's results briefing everyone is wearing identical blue and red ties. Of course, the famous rebranding exercise, whereby HSBC's rather dull logo, a sort of hourglass on its side, must be pasted on every corporate good and chattel — including the staff, right up to director level. At enormous cost, naturally, and to no great end, but such is the way of the world. Keith Whitson, departing chief executive of the Midland Bank, admits lugubriously: "There's hardly been a day when I haven't had to wear it."

**□ WHEN Churchill sent out a brace of nodding bulldogs to puff his car insurance, they were universally voted, in this office at least, the nastiest, tartest PR handout yet. They sat there, nodding half-wittedly, until you tapped them too hard and the head fell off. So no surprise that the campaign featuring the beasts attracted so many requests from the public that Churchill has now sold, yes, sold, 6,000 of them. And someone has actually stolen our two.**

## Bank on it

**A** DAFT survey arrives from the Harrods Bank claiming customers like its service. Attached is an ex-

traordinary, and vaguely familiar, letter from John Simmonds, general manager. "I would like to correct some erroneous reports following allegations made by Mr Neil Hamilton before the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee on 14 October 1997." And he does, and it's the old story about those safe deposit boxes. "These are controlled by the store, not the bank." Harrods Bank is independent, nothing to do with Mohamed Al Fayed. All undoubtedly true, but the decision to attach such a reminder to every lightweight piece of puffery indicates, shall we say, a high degree of sensitivity.



Al Fayed: unconnected with bank

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UNIT TRUST INVESTMENT INFORMATION

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund type (e.g., Equity, Bond, Money Market) and listing various fund names, share prices, and performance metrics.

Advertisement for BSI (Business Systems International) titled 'MOST HARMFUL EMISSIONS COME FROM THE BOARDROOM.' It promotes recycled paper products and environmental friendliness.

Footnote and disclaimer text at the bottom of the page, including 'Data provided by CIB' and 'Copyright © 1998'.







Proposals on data protection 'a burden'

By Rodney Hobson

PROPOSALS under the Data Protection Bill will add substantially to the burdens on small businesses, according to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

The Bill, which extends existing computer data regulations to manual records, is also creating uncertainty, says Anita Hunt, ACCA's technical projects officer who was on the Home Office drafting team for the original Data Protection Act.

She likens the language in the Bill to the television programme Yes, Prime Minister, arguing that it will confuse rather than enlighten.

The Bill, unveiled last month, is expected to come into force in October. Ms Hunt says: "The legislation is complex and detailed and it will impose a new and unwelcome level of bureaucracy. Making its provisions understandable to the hard-pressed owner-manager of a small business will be a near-impossible task."

Data protection will be extended to records held in a filing system, but there is already disagreement between the Government and the Data Protection Registrar as to what kind of records are covered.

One provision of the Bill allows an exception if providing information would involve "disproportionate effort", but again it is not clear what this means.

Individuals will have the right to give instructions that they do not wish to receive mailshots. Ms Hunt says: "This will be a welcome move for those individuals who object to receiving junk mail. It will be less welcome to businesses involved in direct marketing, whose operations will be restricted by this new layer of red tape. They will have to introduce procedures to allow people to object. They will have to keep records of those individuals and cross-check against these records before distributing marketing materials."

She points out that registration forms for the current system are "flooded, unclear and can take hours to complete. The registration fee of £75 for three years is the same for small and large businesses."

The Government intends the notification system for the new regime to be simpler, although "this remains to be seen," she says.

Corporate hospitality goes up, up and away

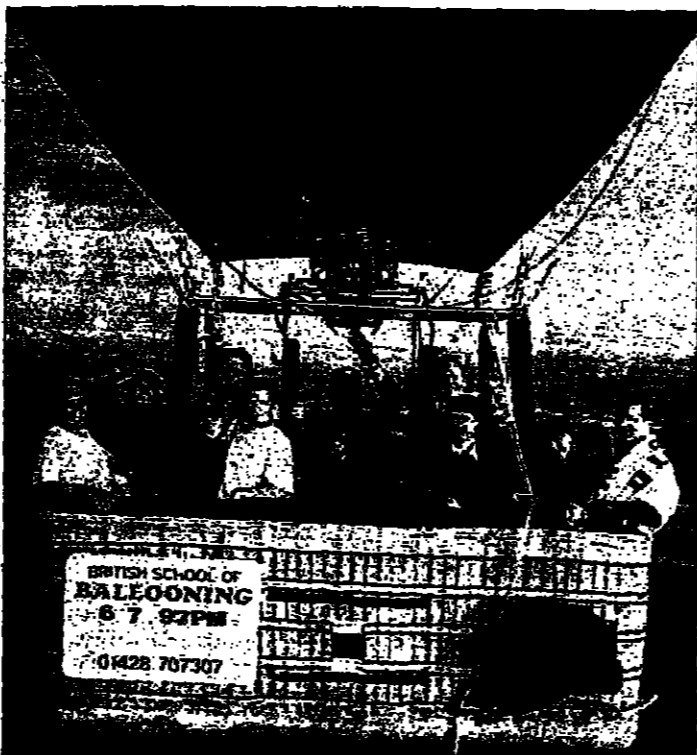
Sally Watts on small firms that thrive by selling fun to others

A champagne flight in a hot air balloon, travel on the Orient Express and an Arabian nights entertainment scene, a high-growth area for small businesses.

Corporate hospitality has two main aims - rewarding employees for a job well done, and impressing potential clients. A stylish event can enhance a business's prestige and help to clinch a contract. Or it can celebrate a product launch, or a new venture.

Stimulated by a buoyant economy, hospitality is a successful, though highly competitive, industry. "It has grown up because businesses have money and are driven by the 'best-good' factor," says David Watt, a partner in Creative Breaks, formed 18 months ago in Fulham, West London. The company has just organised a team bowling evening, as a reward for employees, and a Dublin weekend, that took in Ireland v Scotland rugby, for clients.

Though banks are big spenders, entertainment is certainly not limited to big corporations. Many small businesses sign up for an occasion that will oil the wheels of client relationships, perhaps encouraging renewal of a contract that is ending, or for an event at which



Balloon flights can be a treat for companies' staff and customers

staff can relax and enjoy themselves. The choice is huge, extending beyond traditional prestige venues - such as Ascot, Henley, Wimbledon and the opera - to having fun through hands-on activities.

"In ten years, participation has gone from nothing to big business," said Giles Butlerfield, managing director of Sports Events Hospitality, of Milton Keynes. He arranges trips

to big social-cum-sporting events - sometimes with the Orient Express - but also notes rising demand for archery, tank-driving and go-karting. "You can never tell what people will want," he said. "You might get two food companies. One wants something traditional, the other chooses go-karting."

At Petworth, West Sussex, activities including fishing and clay pigeon shoots can be linked to an

hour-long balloon trip, with champagne on landing. Flights are by the Balloon Club of Great Britain, and activities are laid on by a firm based near by. "We get a number of finance companies from the City - people want to be in the fresh air, doing something positive," said the club's Amanda Carey.

Andrew Sutherland, a director of Bedlam, an Edinburgh company running relaxing open-air days with food, entertainment and activities, says that its business rose by 50 per cent last year. Bedlam works with many small firms and believes that entertaining clients away from the office does win orders.

Corporate hospitality also offers karaoke, murder evenings and themed parties, perhaps with a pirate island or Arabian nights flavour. American Theme Events creates parties based on the Wild West, Prohibition and Las Vegas. "If a firm is entertaining guests, rather than employees, it will spend far more on them, such as including a saloon bar," said Pam Jones, who runs the business with Derek, her husband, in Croydon.

Clients, Mrs Jones says, wish to display imagination and show that they are thriving. Like many hospitality firms, hers operates far afield. Some link with conferences, staging events after the main agenda.

Mrs Jones said: "There is potential for small businesses, but they must have a good product."

Creative Breaks: 0171-795 0155. Balloon Club of Great Britain: 0500 382 383. Sport Events Hospitality: 01908 577 556. American Theme Events: 0181-657 2813. Bedlam: 0131 555 1945.

Brown urged to keep the Budget changes simple

By Rodney Hobson

KEEP it simple, small businesses and their advisers have urged Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, as he prepares his Budget to be presented on March 17.

Mike Warburton, tax partner at Grant Thornton, the business adviser, says: "We have just undergone the most radical change to personal taxation for a generation with self-assessment. It has caused enormous problems for both the Inland Revenue and taxpayers alike and this is, in part, due to the enormous complexity of our tax system. Keep it simple, Mr Brown, so that we can have time to gear up to the introduction of company self-assessment in 1999."

The British Chambers of Commerce also calls for a simpler tax system coupled with more incentives for entrepreneurs to invest and measures to ease cashflow.

Dr Ian Peters, the BCC deputy director-general, says: "A complex tax system burdens the smaller firm with heavy compliance costs. Previous Budgets have tinkered too much, causing a proliferation of tax rates, and the Chancellor must now seek to promote a more integrated long-term approach to the tax system."

BCC suggests the introduction of investment tax credits that would allow firms not yet showing a profit to claim tax breaks against other liabilities such as pay-as-you-earn and national insurance contributions. It wants the quarterly payment of corporation tax to be limited to companies with profits of more than £1.5 million and the VAT registration threshold to be raised to £100,000.

Mr Tony Miller, financial affairs chairman at the Federation of Small

Businesses, says small firms are facing a crucial two-year period. He says: "We are urging the Chancellor to recognise that investment within the unincorporated business sector is low compared with the UK's international counterparts. We are proposing a capital reserve scheme to allow a proportion of profits to be set aside in a special account to invest in the business. Although this may reduce the Government's tax receipts initially, we believe the subsequent growth in the economy will counter-balance this effect and produce job opportunities."

Kidsons Impey, the chartered accountancy firm, believes that the most likely adverse impact on small business owners will be in areas where the Chancellor feels that the system is being abused, particularly avoiding inheritance tax. These include the purchase of farmland by wealthy individuals who have no connection with farming, purchasing works of art, insurance schemes involving bonds written in trust for beneficiaries and the rewriting of wills to make bequests more tax-efficient.

Kidsons says: "While many would not consider themselves to be in the wealthy individuals bracket, for anyone considering transferring their business to family members or selling with a view to retirement the timing of the transactions and the impact of any Budget changes could be significant."

Mr Warburton fears that reinvestment relief, enterprise investment scheme relief and venture capital trusts may be seen as loopholes by the Government.

price £19.95. It is written by Imogen Bertin, of the Cork Teleworking Centre, and Alan Denbigh, the association's executive director, and will be available from bookshops.

The 20th London International Direct Marketing Fair will be held at Wembley Conference Centre from March 17 to 19. The fair will include management sessions, one of which, looking at the future of direct marketing and entitled Junking the Junk Image, will be held by Professor Laurie Taylor, the sociologist and media don.



Small firms considering taking on a new young employee under the Government's New Deal programme can obtain a free copy of Profit Builder from the Forum of Private Business. The document helps firms to decide if they will benefit from the programme and explains whom to contact. Copies from the FPB on 01565 634467.

In response to press reports of directors facing disqualification or fines, Evenbush, the law firm, has produced a guide to personal liabilities of directors. The booklet is free from 015 950 7000.

A fund to help businesses to pay for millennium compliance work on their technology has been set up by NatWest. Businesses can borrow between £300 and £1 million and take a capital repayment holiday until January 2000.

Owner managers, finance directors and chief accountants of companies with turnover of between £1 million and £20 million can get professional advice at a clinic organised by Solomon

Hare, the chartered accountant, Lloyds Bank and 3i, the venture capital specialist. The clinic is at Staverton, near Cheltenham, on March 12. Details from Jacqueline Robinson on 0117 923 7000.

The second edition of The Teleworking Handbook for people who need advice on working at home will be published by the Telework, Teletottage and Telecentre Association on March 10,

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If the Spice Girls are past it, no one told them, the fans fighting for tickets for their first tour, or David Sinclair

# As they say, all you need is positivity

DAVE HOGAN

It does not take long to realise, once the door shuts and you are alone with the five Spice Girls, how intertwined they are, emotionally, intellectually and even physically. Ginger Spice (Geri Halliwell) is lying sideways on a couch, her legs sprawled across the knees of Posh (Victoria Adams), whose thighs in turn are hitched half across the lap of Scary (Mel Brown). Seated on separate chairs, Baby (Emma Bunton) and Sporty (Melanie Chisholm) complete the semi-circle.

They are in a dressing room in a venue called The Point in Dublin, where they have been rehearsing for three weeks before tonight's start of their first live tour, a European marathon which will reach Britain in April. Outside, Spice fever is sweeping the streets, where tickets for the first dates at the 8,000-capacity Point have been changing hands for anything up to £125, five times their face value. The group, which was written off by the media at the end of last year and cold-shouldered by the music industry this year, is still manifestly the biggest draw in pop, whatever anybody says.

The latest snub is the glaring absence of the Spice Girls from the nominations for the American Grammy Awards, which will be presented in New York tomorrow. "We're actually quite oblivious to it all," Victoria says, without rancour. "I mean, how important is it really? What's important are the awards that are voted for by the fans. They're the people who have made us and put us where we are."

Paul McCartney once described the image of the Beatles as being "four parts of the same person", but that was nothing compared to the way the five Spice Girls present themselves. They all talk, but are quick to give way to one another. In conversation, as apparently in life, they form a mutual support system. If one strays off-message or gets stuck up a blind alley (usually Geri), the others are quick to rescue her, and steer the conversation back to safer territory. All are strong individuals — Geri the most garrulous, Mel C the most reflective, Victoria the most serious, Mel B the most roguish and Emma the sweetest — but together their chemistry is absolute.

They say that the live show will be a theatrical experience, with lots of drama, dancing and "characterisation" to accompany the per-



"It isn't our marketing which has got us where we are today, so much as our music and our attitude and our vibe. As for the backlash, that would have happened anyway"

formances of the songs. "We see ourselves as more than a pop band," Mel C says in her Liverpoolian brogue. "We've done a movie. We want to try everything."

There are, of course, those who think the Spice Girls have already tried enough. It was Victoria who once said: "We want to be as

famous as Persil Automatic" — an odd goal, on the face of it, for a group of entertainers, but one which they have set about achieving with a single-minded enthusiasm unmatched by any other act in the history of pop. Having endorsed a seemingly endless list of consumer goods, their name has

become as ubiquitous as that of any supermarket product. They have sold 34 million copies of their albums *Spice* and *Spiceworld* in just 18 months, and let's face it, their repertoire is stuffed with songs that are already pop classics. But would they now accept that the "soap powder"

tactics may have cheapened their image, and that for many people the merits of their music have been obscured by the overzealous marketing of the group? "Whatever was done it was our decision," Geri says, firmly. "We wanted to be marketed. Maybe we were, in certain ways, overexposed,

The backlash is referred to throughout as if it were some sort of natural disaster which, having been weathered, has brought them closer together than before. Rumblings in the corridors of their record company suggest that since they sacked their manager, who has not been replaced, it has become harder to get decisions out of Planet Spice, and that forward planning is rapidly becoming a thing of the past. The Girls clam up noticeably when asked about the prospects for a third album, but insist that their motivation remains as strong as the day they started the group.

"People, and men especially, find it very difficult to accept that five girls who are relatively young can make decisions and organise a schedule," Mel B says.

"There's no hung parliament with us. It's democracy. It's true coalition government," says Geri, always quick to supply one of her colourful metaphors.

The Girls have a way of charming the people they meet, from a bemused Barry Norman to the grumpy Elvis Costello to this correspondent. But the level of hostility which their brazen commercialism has provoked, not least among the more "serious-minded" brethren in the rock world, has been breathtaking. Like the successful but déclassé relative who shows up at family gatherings flashing the newest baubles, the Girls remind some of their peers a little too obviously of what their business is all about. Many were inclined to agree with Phil Spector, when he called them "The Anti-Christ".

"What sort of people want to criticise five people who are giving young children a positive attitude?" Victoria says, with a spark of something more steely flashing behind her eyes. "We're not promoting drink or drugs. We're doing nice things and we're nice people. So what kind of person is it that does that? I don't understand it, and I don't even like to entertain thoughts about it, because I think it's sad."

"Don't even go there, OK?" Mel B says, patting her reassuringly on the knee.

• The Spice Girls play *The Point, Dublin*, tonight and tomorrow. The stage show is released on *Virgin*, March 9.

## OPERA: Double helping of Handel, North and South; community spirit in East Anglia

In all justice Handel should have called his opera *Cleopatra*, especially when Amanda Roocroft is on hand for the part. Egypt's queen has the best music and the most varied. Roocroft, in commanding voice throughout, let there be no doubt about this. Act II was especially impressive, starting with the opera's most famous number, *Va, pupille*, as Caesar is charmed from the heavens by the disguised Cleopatra.

Not long afterwards she is praying to the gods up there to save her and her new lover from the perfidious Tolomeo. Marvellous music, marvellously sung. Ann Murray, one of our most

## Hail Caesar, love those flounces

distinguished Handelian, sounded out of sorts in the title role during the first half. Her tone was apt to spread and, dressed in a silly gypsyish, she hardly cut an imperial figure. Eventually in Act III, when Caesar has turned from lovestruck adventurer to man of war, the old Murray touch returned.

Lindsay Posner's production for the Royal Opera found little favour



with Rodney Milnes when it opened Covent Garden's season at the Barbican Theatre last September. It remains resolutely anti-Baroque, but in its new Shaftesbury home still looks campy and dated. Flouncing around required from everyone.

On the credit side the running time, with some judicious cuts mainly in Act II, has been trimmed to a manageable three and a half hours. And in support of Roocroft

there is much highly distinguished singing. The part of the young blade, Sesto, has now passed from the counter-tenor David Daniels to the young Romanian mezzo, Ruxandra Donose. She may not yet have the masculine bass to her voice of some of her East European colleagues, but there is warmth, suppleness and the right eager manner on stage. She was especially effective in her Act I duet with Sesto's mother Cornelia, nobly sung by Yvonne Howard.

Neal Davies is the new Achilles, blowing with the wind and ending up dead. Brian Asawa's Tolomeo, played as a Rasta rocker high on substances, is the main victim of Posner's predilection for flouncing. Fortunately sanity rules in the pit, where Ivor Bolton's control of the Royal Opera Chamber Orchestra is ever Handelian in spirit and execution.

JOHN HIGGINS

## Show of strength in the third act

Scottish Opera scored marks for versatility last week, at least in principle, hot on the heels of its impressive *Paranoid* double bill came the first of four Theatre Royal concert performances of Handel's *Samson*.

That qualifying word "concert" in a sense reflects the inadequacy of 18th-century terminology to cope with what Handel was up to — if indeed he knew himself — in his English-language works, lumped together under "oratorio". They could not be called "operas", because they were not a string of arias in Italian; Handel called his *Hercules* "a musical drama", a near-Wagnerian term a century ahead of its time; the librettist of *Samson* wrote that he was adapting Milton's poem "for the stage", and talked of "the plan of a Tragedy with Chorus's, after the manner of the Ancients". In practice, Handel was reinventing opera in its purest form.

Even during a performance as undistinguished as last Friday's, it was plain that this was a drama crying out to be staged, which it often has been, though this is no criticism of Scottish Opera for not doing so in these financially straitened times — better Handel in concert than no Handel at all. The bickering of the fallen hero — as blind as Milton was, as blind as the composer was soon to become — with the perfidious Dalila, the faultlessly constructed dramatic arch of the third act from challenge to crisis to paternal forgiveness to death, mourning and triumphant celebration — this is the very stuff

of drama. Apart from anything else, how rewarding to hear *Let the bright Seraphim* in context, as climax of the whole work.

Yet there was a hideous atmosphere of "oratorio" in the worst sense about proceedings. Neill Archer sang the title with heroic tone and impressive agility in the florid numbers, but fatally ironed out the colour of the words, some of them by Milton. Some soloists were over-parted, which made one all the more grateful for two who were not: Patricia Bardou, bringing the potentially unrewarding role of Micah to vivid life with her velvety contralto and vivid response to words, and Christopher Purves, who may not win many prizes for purity of 18th-century vocal style, but made the hero's father a creature of flesh and blood and rose nobly to *How willing my paternal love*, one of the most sublime passages in all Handel.

In the pit, Derek Clark mostly settled for mere chugalong Handel, and allowed drama-deadening pauses between numbers. The orchestra did not have a good evening, and the chorus sounded brash. Yet somehow the composer took over: his third act could not help but lift proceedings out of the commonplace, which raises hopes for later performances in Edinburgh, Inverness and Aberdeen.

RODNEY MILNES



Amanda Roocroft gets the best of Handel in *Giulio Cesare*

## Bravery in action

Let's face it: community opera is seldom for audiences. It is primarily a publicity and funding tool for the company behind it all, with the missionary work following in its wake. Or the other way round, depending on your view of the world. So it was a pleasant surprise to find an audience entertained by *Heroes don't dance*, a collaboration between the Royal Opera's education department, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Cambridge Corn Exchange.

*Heroes* is the culmination of a two-year project in which Royal Opera professionals have doubtless been generating a little esteem-building therapy for themselves by working with adults and young people on every aspect of opera production, from composition to marketing. The shared expertise, under project coordinator Wendy York, has certainly opened a wellspring of creativity and imagination from which the company may find itself able to take a sip.

## Heroes don't dance

George Cullen, holding himself responsible for the death of a child on a school trip, retreats to the anorak-world of Biggles and fantasy derring-do. The community — broken into neat little operatic ensembles of teachers, bullies, policemen, dinner-ladies worthy of Beryl Reid — all conspire to haul George back to reality. This, in a nice ironic twist and a powerfully dramatic finale, is the end-of-term fancy-dress ball.

There are times when the workshoping creaks noisily. There are times, particularly at the start, when the disadvantages of the barn-like Corn Exchange conspire with inadequately trained amateur voices to make much of what is going on unintelligible. There are times, too, when one yearns for a melodic robustness of word-setting comparable to the rhythmic invention of the score.

HILARY FINCH

## Rhythm and grooves

HAVING excelled during the 1970s as a drummer and composer much given to explosive displays of grandstanding bravura, both as a solo act and with artists such as Miles Davis and the Mahavishnu Orchestra, Billy Cobham has spent the intervening years trying to leave behind much of the excess baggage of his past. The last time I saw him perform, with a group called Glass Menagerie in 1986, he had swung to the opposite extreme, performing a set of anodyne, supper-club jazz.

At Watermans Arts Centre on Friday, however, he managed to locate a happy medium. The 53-year-old percussion prodigy directed proceedings with firm but discreet authority from behind a substantial double-bass drum kit. The show was very much a balanced group effort, featuring various compositions by each of the musicians: Gary Husband (keyboards), Stefan Rademacher (electric bass), Carl Orr (guitar) and Randy Brecker (trumpet).

Indeed, it was not until the second set that the band played one of Cobham's own compositions, *Three Will Get You Four*, a brisk, typically demanding motif

## JAZZ



Cobham: a powerful, ambidextrous technique

in a shifting time signature that found all the musicians (except Cobham) suddenly paying urgent attention to the dots on the page. They began, however, in a more relaxed vein with *Blues For Jimmy*, a sprightly, 12-bar looser written by Orr, which

found the guitarist dispatching fluent, blues-based lines with a pleasing warmth, while Husband coaxed an old-fashioned R&B organ sound from his keyboards. Brecker upped the ante with his composition, *Sleazy Factor*, a Latin-tinged groove which he peppered with gossipping clusters of notes articulated in his eloquent tone.

Towards the end of *Conclusion*, a down-tempo funk groove, Cobham steered his way through a succession of four-bar breaks with a sudden blazing display of aggression. But for the most part, his incredibly powerful, ambidextrous technique provided pin-sharp rhythmic definition, rather than dazzle. It would have been very easy to woo the crowd with a return to old favourites such as *Quadrant 4* or *Red Baron*, but this was not part of Cobham's plan. Sticking to newer material, in which the passages of improvised soloing were generally brief and to the point, the ensemble succeeded not as a star vehicle or celebration of past glories, but very much as a contemporary, creative whole.

DAVID SINCLAIR

## Electra and the Amazon



Amazonian rainforest, belongs to no easily defined category.

Reviewers often detect echoes of Ravel in his compositions for piano, yet the unrestrained percussive element points in an entirely different direction. Gismonti hinted as much during one of the solo pieces before the interval when he made a seamless transition to bamboo flute, summoning up ancestral spirits with haunting, tattoo-like figures. As for the collaborators with the Electra Strings and wind ensemble, those built on the

cross-cultural exchanges of Gismonti's recent ECM album, *Meeting Point*, with its light-hearted references to Stravinsky and its borrowings from Brazilian folk dances. Accompanied by Gismonti at the piano on *Sonhos* and the newly commissioned *Querubim*, Sonia Slanev and her colleagues imposed a welcome sense of structure on a musician who is sometimes prone to garrulousness.

Still, it is in his guitar-playing that his individuality is most vividly expressed — a curious phenomenon, given that he came to the instrument late in his career. His reliance on percussive force can be a limitation, yet that is balanced by the extraordinary range of timbres he extracts from his ten and 12-string instruments. Classical allusions are blended with the best notes of a sitar and the singing tones of the *cavaquinho*, that staple of the Brazilian choro bands. Gismonti the troubadour roams across continents.

CLIVE DAVIS

Private for the public

BUILDING

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# Private gift for the public eye

Richard Cork on collector Janet Wolfson de Botton's stunning donation to the Tate Gallery — and the nation

Plenty of private collections would look timid and diminished if placed on display at the Tate Gallery. Modest pictures, pleasant enough hanging in a domestic space, can easily seem inadequate when transferred to the monumental dimensions of a museum. But the works given to the Tate by Janet Wolfson de Botton survive the journey with aplomb. They are the purchases of a woman who set herself the most ambitious standards, and refused to settle only for art she could accommodate with ease inside the limits of a home.

Nor did she play safe. British collectors used to shy away from the most adventurous aspects of modern art. Even Samuel Courtauld, our most distinguished 20th-century collector, favoured paintings produced in the closing years of the previous century. But de Botton's magnificent gift is powered throughout by a wholehearted involvement with the art of her own time.

After appetite for risk-taking is clear when you enter the very first room. At the far end, Bill Woodrow's sculpture *Elephant* dominates the space with flamboyant brio. Spreading across a large expanse of wall and floor, it is impossible to imagine in a home. De Botton must have kept it in storage most of the time, but she was right to acquire such a headlong tour de force.

The mammal itself is reduced to a head, hung like a hunter's trophy. Its ears are continents, ripped from colonial maps of South America and Africa displayed on either side. Close scrutiny discloses that the head and trunk are bolstered inside by a vacuum cleaner and training boots. Painted metal strips have been wrapped around the elephant's exterior, giving it a rusted, obsolescent look. The gun that killed it, slung at the tip of its trunk, looks equally redundant; and so do the battered car doors ranged in a circle near by. But the sheer ingenuity of Woodrow's working methods, combined with the boldness of his imagination, prevents the sculpture from presenting too gloomy a view of the world it arraigns.

Elsewhere, De Botton's enthusiasm extends far beyond apocalyptic denunciation. In front of *Elephant*, two impersonal slabs of aluminium and plastic by Roni Horn lie on the floor. They could be as austere as anything by Carl Andre or Don Judd, but the word "tiger" runs in simple yet insistent yellow capitals across one end of each block. Their chant-like repetition, carrying unmistakable echoes of William Blake's poem, gives the sculpture a Romantic fire and a literary dimension far removed from the stern Minimalism of the 1960s.

Horn, a New York artist who made the work in 1990, is barely known over here. But that did not stop de Botton from adding her to the collection. One of the pleasures of this outstanding gift lies in its willingness to mix heavy international reputations with less familiar names. De Botton,

the granddaughter of Isaac Wolfson, who founded Great Universal Stores, has the resources to buy major images by some of the most expensive contemporary artists. But she is just as likely to be swayed by discovering a newly emergent talent, and the tension between them gives the Tate exhibition its air of excitement.

So does the unpredictability of her interests. Nothing could be more exuberant than Frank Stella's shameless *Salsa nel mio Sacco* — a mixed-media showpiece — exploding outwards in fragments painted with ecstatic scribbles or dynamic, hard-edged patterns.

In another mood, though, de Botton is capable of responding to the reined-in rigour of Reinhard Mucha's *Tisit*, a sober, felt-swathed rectangle projecting from the wall. In Andy Warhol's 1964 *Electric Chair*, the isolated instrument of death is set back in the bare immensity of an execution chamber. Screenprinted with acrylic on canvas, the image looks curiously blurred, almost scrambled. It is as if a grainy newspaper photograph had somehow become invaded by the same lethal voltage as the chair's victims. This indistinctness contrasts, absolutely, with the impact of the other Warhol, a large *Self-Portrait* produced only a year before he died in 1987. This time, the artist's face is seen in startling close-up, filling most of the picture-surface. His ubiquitous white wig flies outwards, as though reacting to a seismic shock. And Warhol's paint,



One of Manzoni's "consecrated" eggs with thumbprint

spectral features gaze out at us, like a man confronting the imminence of his own death. However various de Botton's purchases may seem, they are linked by her search for a sense of intensity. That, surely, is why she acquired works by Gilbert and George at their quietest and their most macabre. In *Red Morning Trouble*, 25 images juxtapose the artists themselves with views of London, trees and sky. Seen singly, and soberly dressed in shirts and ties, they look downcast and unable to communicate with each other. The photographs of Thames-side buildings increase the oppressive mood, and even the landscapes offer no release. But in a later work, ironically called *Happy*, despondency gives way to manic theatricality as a yelling, upside-down, red-faced Gilbert confronts a malevolent, yellow-faced George. Both strongly lit from below, they seem trapped behind the bars of the grid stamped on to the picture.

De Botton wanted *Happy* so much that, according to Monique Bendant in the Tate catalogue, "she waged a campaign with the artist's London dealer until he agreed to sell her the work". But she also admired the calculated restraint of Cindy Sherman's *Untitled Film Still* series. Like Gilbert and George, Sherman concentrates on herself in each of these black-and-white photographs. But, unlike the instantly recognisable duo, she reinvents her persona all the time. Relying cleverly on the conventions of Hollywood movies from the 1950s, she moves from a mascara-stained, blonde weeping in a bar to a straight-laced brunette with hair wrapped tightly in a prim scarf. The most cinematic picture of all shows her standing close-up with a suitcase on a deserted country road, like Tuesday Weld hitching a lift.

De Botton's open-minded acceptance of new media is one of the most attractive aspects of her collection. Ready to savour Patrick Caulfield's mastery of acrylic in his virtuoso 1968 painting called *Grill*, where several different styles coexist on the same tall canvas, she is just as prepared



Untitled No 126 (1983) by Cindy Sherman, one of the moderns admired and collected by Janet Wolfson de Botton

to buy a box by Lucas Samaras bristling with nails, broken glass, coloured string and other, equally unorthodox materials. To her, what really counts is imaginative power. If Tsuzo Miyajima achieves it by set-

ting "light-emitting diodes" to wink in a circle on a darkened floor, de Botton relishes the technological outcome as much as the savours Richard Long's ability to arrange Delaube slate segments in a very different circle, redolent

of nature at its most primordial. By letting us all share her delight, she deserves our heartfelt gratitude.

Janet Wolfson de Botton Gift at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-887 8000) until April 26

## Worth his weight in gold?

The Serpentine Gallery reopens next Saturday after a thorough restoration that allows it to meet the environmental and security conditions needed for international loan exhibitions. The first show in its calendar is of the Italian artist Piero Manzoni, whose work was last seen in this country in an exhibition at the Tate Gallery in 1974. Germano Celant curated that exhibition and now, as the part-time curator of contemporary art at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, he is also curating the Serpentine show.

Celant, who was born in Genoa in 1940, first became interested in Manzoni's work in the 1960s and has since become its leading expert. Celant met Manzoni only once. "When I was 21, still a student and involved in film and contemporary art, I went to a strange event in Milan where Manzoni was boiling eggs and then giving Communion to everyone. He had very large staring eyes, as if he was hallucinating." Manzoni's description of the same "manifestation" is equally surreal: "I consecrated a number of hard-boiled eggs to art by placing my thumb print on them: the public was able to make contact with these works by swallowing the entire exhibition in 70 minutes."

### Isabel Carlisle talks to the curator of the Piero Manzoni show at the refurbished Serpentine Gallery

Manzoni split the two and said both the body of the artist and his art are a work of art. At the time, his use of the human body as art was not more shocking than the mono-chrome works. For these he covered crossed canvases in white kaolin, or mounted white cotton wool, or string, or eggshells, or bread rolls whitened with kaolin, onto a board.

It is not difficult to detect an affinity between Manzoni and Celant. Celant, too, is an iconoclast, breaking down barriers between different branches of the arts, and for affirmation he points to today's youth culture.

The new generation has a global vision and sees art as a way of communicating about the world. Kids today are more interested in fashion than in art but they are also anti-hierarchy. I am working on cross-pollination, linking film, fashion, art and design. At the moment I am putting together a big Andy Warhol show for the Guggenheim that includes everything: TV, film, fashion, art and all of the other Warhol enterprises. Artists like Warhol are the symbol of our century." Celant is defiant, not apologetic, when he adds: "People get upset by breaking down the barriers between high and low art, primitive and classical."

As well as thinking modern, Celant has a very modern role as one of a tiny band of international curator supremos, a job that only came into being in the past 50 years with the rise of the travelling blockbuster. He coined the term *Arte Povera* (Poor Art) to describe a generation of mainly Italian conceptual artists, born in the 1930s and 1940s, who were making provocative juxtapositions between everyday materials and existing objects, and then went on to write and curate

shows about the movement. When he went to the Guggenheim in 1988, he was the first European curator in a big American museum. In 1997, with the Venice Biennale in danger of being cancelled, he took on the position of curator with only 45 days to spare and the show went on. Celant relishes impossible projects. Hard on the heels of the opening of the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Celant would like to see another Guggenheim outpost created in Venice in the Punta della Dogana, where the New York museum could show contemporary art. He refuses to be drawn on his aspirations to be its director, but the combination of contemporary art and Italy might be irresistible.

Piero Manzoni is at the Serpentine Gallery in Kensington Gardens from Feb 28 to April 26 (071-402 6075)

### AROUND THE GALLERIES

DURING the last recession, the once buoyant British art market was scuttled. Could the opening of London's latest gallery mark a reflow? Helly Nahmad, 21-year-old scion of the famous Syrian art-dealing family, has invested in premises in Cork Street.

In a space as expansive and airy as an ocean liner, he brings together for the inaugural exhibition museum quality paintings from the Impressionists to the pioneers of Abstraction. These are works you will recognise from art books and catalogues: a sublime Monet grainstack in a mist of blues, reds and yellows, a Bonnard drenched in golden light, a luscious Delacroix, three serene Modiglianis, two luminous Kandinskys and a jumble of Braques.

Most of them are not for sale but to show to quicken the senses. Helly Nahmad Gallery, 2 Cork Street, London W1 (071-494 3200), until May

AT A less established level of artistic accomplishment, the Royal Academy is displaying the work of its most promising students, the winners of its "premiums" or prizes. This is an eclectic exhibition. The life drawings of the first-year pupils provide conventional reflections of an age-old skill. But the works of the second and third-year students run the gamut from the sepia tinted scenes of ankle-socked schoolgirls by Grace O'Connor to Cristina Marinangoli's contorted nude, thrown like a slab of putrefying meat onto her canvas. Best, I liked Adam Stone's *Deep End*, a picture of swimmers in a pool, full of broken reflections and echoing blue light. Sackler Wing, Royal Academy of Arts, London W1 (071-439 7438), until Feb 27

THE William MacTaggart whose works are on show in Edinburgh is not the hoary (and differently spelt) Scottish landscapist William MacTaggart, whose works are reputedly coveted by the Lord Chancellor. He is his grandson. Yet the vibrant, heavily textured landscapes and still lifes of the younger MacTaggart have become among the most popular in 20th-century Scottish art. There is a billowing, burning heat to his skies, a golden richness to his cornfields. The sea is dark and angry, windows flare with sunset colour and flowers bloom with vivid intensity. Though the earlier works in this retrospective wear the influences of post-Impressionism openly, he matured into a bold master of colour. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (0131-556 8921), until May 10

"ELEGANT Austerity" is a celebration of the art and aesthetics of Josef Albers, the Bauhaus teacher whose abstract work was a meditation on the simple magic of colour and light. Historically his art is seen as an important link between early European and late American Modernism. The optical illusions which his overlaid squares of colour create relate him to the Op Art movement. But the real pleasure of this exhibition stems from the sense of clarity, stillness and restraint which his work evokes. Albers's paintings and drawings are complemented in this show by the work of related artists: Carl Andre's copper floor tiles, the startling silt canvas of Lucio Fontana, the stacked geometries of Donald Judd's sculptures and the white on white reliefs of Ben Nicholson. Waddington Galleries, 11 Cork Street, W1 (071-437 8611), until March 14

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

### BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best available classical recordings on compact disc, presented in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

DEBUSSY'S IMAGES FOR PIANO Reviewed by David Murray DEBUSSY composed his two series of *Images* for the piano in his mid-forties: in 1905, and in 1907-08. More elaborate and substantial than his 1902 *Estampes*, and barely recognisable as by the composer of the *Suite Pour le Piano* (1901), the *Images I* and *II* are twin peaks at the start of Debussy's mature piano range.

Well-schooled French Debussy-playing — sometimes dainty, but lucid and disciplined — is fading now, as modern pianists get greater scope by "own interpretations", self-expression and noise. Sometimes those work, more often not. When the "slow" middle pieces in each *Images* triptych are

scathingly protracted they become disproportionately weighty, when the swift, playful "males" are taken much below tempo, they lose their point altogether. There are almost 30 versions of the *Images* to be had on CD, but more than half of them come in all-Debussy albums, anything from two to five discs. More than half of them, too, are transfers from pre-1982 LPs, with varying sound-quality. The lack of rich sound in *Les Introvables* de Marcell Meyer, a wonderful EMI Classics compilation of Meyer performances from the 1950s and earlier (six CDs), forbids a firm recommendation, although no pianist is more faithful. In "historical" albums by international pianists, Wal-

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk. Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Handel's Organ Concertos

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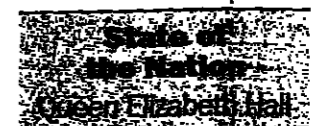
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# Annals of revolution

## Future not so gripping

HAD an alien dropped into the London Sinfonietta's *State of the Nation* day, it would have taken away an oddity incomplete picture of new music in Britain now. Not because the title implies something grand and Establishment-like, but because little of what was heard in the two main concerts represented the best of what's new.

Following on from last year's first *State of the Nation* event, Saturday's programme, a collaboration between the Sinfonietta and other organisations involved in contemporary music, opened in the morning with a symposium



that was followed by concerts, discussions and a workshop by Judith Weir. But not many of the dozen or so pieces premiered trod interesting new paths, or revealed their (mostly thirtysomething) composers as individual voices.

At least these composers were lucky in getting their music played by such outstanding performers as the Sinfonietta. In the chamber concert four quartets for piano, clarinet, violin and cello were premiered, and Fraser Trainers' *Motion Pictures* had a variety of textures the others lacked. These instruments might not have been everyone's first choice, and indeed Messiaen only could find his *Quartet for the End of Time* for them because they happened to be available in his prison camp, but Trainers has written a compelling work remarkable for its rhythmic drive and elegant ending.

Though Edward Hughes's fluid piece had strong ideas, they were not developed with a sharp enough focus. Similarly, David Bruce's *Carroway*, Keith Johnson's *Don't Say a Word*, full of whispering sonorities, might have been twice as effective if they had been more tightly written.

Kenneth Hesketh's constantly shifting *Three Movements* - from "Theatrum", perhaps too thickly scored, proved the highlight of the orchestral concert - under Markus Stenz, though Alwynne Pritchard's less ambitious *Crow* also disclosed a composer of originality; her eerie piece is characterised by sparse sounds and long silences. In spite of Clio Gould's persuasive playing of its solo violin part, John Lunn's *Oner Night* turned out to be simply a stringing of film-score clichés.

Roderick Watkins's *Red Light*, the title not what it seems, spreads the player's across the stage to no obvious advantage. In contrast, Marylyn Harry's *Fantasy Unbuttoned* was full of exuberance; its barrage of sound, calling even for a loud-hailer, was substitute for real ideas, but it was never dull.

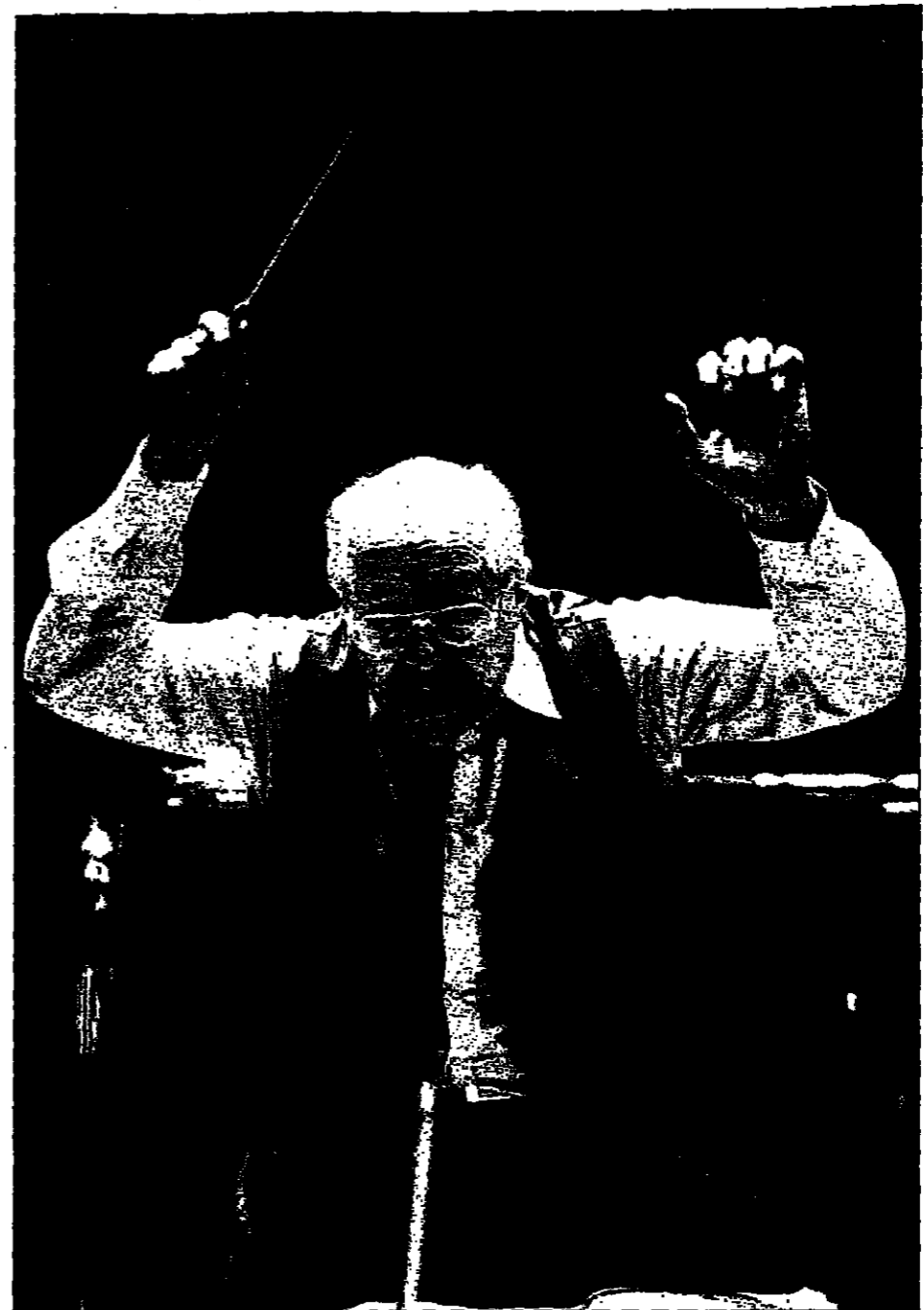
HILARY FINCH

GERALD LARNER

JOHN ALLISON



# Dear



Mstislav Rostropovich: one of the last remaining direct links to Dmitri Shostakovich

There never was a carnival like it. Ten post-revolutionary years of street-parties, processions, singing voices, marching feet, racing pulses - and Shostakovich there as a huge sensitised palate to absorb, chronicle and transfigure it all. Thanks to the London Symphony Orchestra's Barbican survey of Shostakovich's music, we are hearing several of those works of the 1920s which disappeared for decades - and which are still, justifiably, eclipsed in regular concert programming by the mature symphonies.

The early symphonies, the film music, the party commissions are, yes, the poster art to the great oil canvases; but what posters, what art! On

### London SO/Rostropovich Barbican

Sunday the LSO and Rostropovich arrived at the Third Symphony, the *May Day*, a musical realisation of every raised arm and clenched fist in the pantheon of Soviet statuary.

This is the work with the longest, most tense sidetrack roll in symphonic history, and with the huge, sudden choral finale ("On the first first of May a bright light illumined the past, a spark was fanned into flame, a blaze engulfed the forest...").

Shostakovich wrote the symphony, he said, "to give shape to the passions of struggle and victory". And in this performance the struggle was uppermost. After Andrew Marriner's exquisite clarinet solo the mighty procession unfurled with heavy, deliberate footfall. The conductor Mstislav Rostropovich worked the countering materials hard, so that climax points were strenuously approached, hard won. And he made us hear, too, in those distant musics - a lone trumpeter, a distant rattle, a sudden stillness - the shadows of symphonies to come in which darker ambiguities would be drawn out of more savage clashes of voices.

felt acutely aware of holding on to a last link, of being in the rearview presence of the last in a line of those close to the composer himself. So strong was this feeling that at times the ear would have been grateful for a little more of a nudge and a wink. The music of *New Babylon*, written for Kazintsev and Trauberg's classic silent film composed a year later. The listener

virtuoso collage of zooming and panning, of emotional engagement and ironic disengagement. Defer timing here and there would have sharpened the sense of wit and irony as themes undercut and wrong-footed each other in Shostakovich's time-machine of a score. But I can't wait for Thursday and 1933-35.

## Feasting on Kiwi fruits

Structure sustains the impression by retaining the basic three-movement components of the conventional concerto, fragmenting and redistributing them in a brilliantly patterned single-movement mosaic.

Having given three highly successful performances of *Kaia* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, which commissioned the score, Lindberg will surely want to make it part of his regular repertoire. It should certainly be more useful than his version of his latest discovery in the trombone archive, a

dust-laden concerto by Ferdinand David. Better known as the violinist for whom Mendelssohn wrote his *Violin Concerto in E minor*, David the composer was evidently lacking neither in Leipzig style nor in trombone knowhow. The actual material of the work, however, stands no chance when brought into competition with the nonsensical cadenza treatment Lindberg applies to it. Those rumbling low notes might be very impressive to trombone enthusiasts, but they have no part in illuminating this particular work.

The compensation was a passionate display of the Leipzig real thing in Mendelssohn's *Reformation Symphony*. Caring apparently little for the sound of the SCO in the small-scale accounts of the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh, Joseph Swensen attacked the score with extraordinary vigour and made it unmistakably clear that - whatever Wagner was to make of the Dresden Amen - which figures so prominently in it - there is nothing at all sanctimonious in it.

JOHN ALLISON

### LONDON

**KAT AND THE KINGS** Boulton new 1950s rock 'n' roll musical about a South African pop group that never quite was. Revived here before West End transfer. **Tricycle Theatre**, 11-12 High Road, N16 5PU (0171-239 1000) Mon-Thur, 8pm, Fri, 5.30pm and 8.30pm, Sat, 4pm and 8pm

**THE TALES OF HOFFMANN**: Graham Vick directs a new production for English National Opera of Offenbach's lively but less well-known work. E.T.A. Hoffmann's uncanny Romantic tale. Rosa Mannon sings the roles of the poet's four objects of desire, with John Tomlinson as the various incarnations of evil. Company music director Paul D. Smith conducts, with designs by Tobias Hoffmann. **Coliseum**, 54 Martin Lane, WC2 (0171-432 8300) Tonight, 7pm

**THINK NO EVIL OF US**: After a year touring his autobiographical arrangement on the life of Kenneth Williams, David Benson gives an airing at the West End. **Vaudeville Theatre**, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9887) Mon-Sat 8pm, Sun 2pm and Sat, 4pm. Until March 14

**VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**: Led by the hands of its conductor Riccardo Chailly, the orchestra returns to Manchester last night the legendary Austrian orchestra's work. The conductor Riccardo Chailly made a stop here with a programme featuring Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* (minor followed by Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*), the soprano Ruth Ziesak as soloist. **Royal Hall, South Bank, SE1** (0171-691 4320) Tonight, 7.30pm

**THE WEIR**: Revival of Conor McPherson's award-winning play, this time to the main house. In an Irish pub of easy, wistful, wry wit, the play explores all kinds with a tale of ghosts and angels. **Van Brunt Theatre**

**ART**: Roger Allam, Mac Ford and Jack Dine in this exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white setting. **Wyndham's**, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1786) Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun 2pm

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**: Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm

**EVERYMAN**: Joseph Meehan mounts a production of the play, dating from 1970, a rugged idea of life aboard a cargo boat on the Great Lakes. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm

**FLIGHT**: Kenneth Curnham and Alan Howard, with Abigail Clatterin, mount the National Theatre debut, in Alan Ayckbourn's rich and subtle play (1978) of a man fleeing from the Russian Civil War. **National Theatre**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2828) Tonight, 7.15pm, Tue-Thu, 2pm, Fri, 4pm

**THE POSTMAN**: Kevin Costner becomes a beacon of hope in post-apocalyptic America. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm

**THE MOUNTAINS**: A powerful dramatic drama about the Pizarro's conquest of the Incas in a South American village. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm

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### TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Martin Hargie

**Royal Court Dramatists** (Duke of York St, St Martin's Lane, WC2) (0171-566 5000), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, WC2 (from Feb 28) 3.30pm

**ELSEWHERE**  
**LEEDS** *Revelation of Dealer's Choice*, Patrick Marber's first stage success, a tense battle of wits played out by the stars of a restaurant as their weekly poker session. **Quarry**, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Quary Hill (0113-213 7700) Premieres from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens March 2, 7.30pm

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**: Dominic Rowan plays the champion of the Royal Shakespeare Company's *Richard III*. **Stratford-upon-Avon**, Swan Theatre, Swan Lane, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 9YF (01927 25622) Opens tonight, 7pm. In repertoire

**LONDON GALLERIES**  
**Barbican**: The Art of the Harley, (0171-638 8871) British Museum, *Paintings from the Collection of Prince and Princess Sadkiddin Aga Khan* (0171-232 8525) Hayward, *Francis Bacon* (0171-628 5144) Lisson Art Space (0171-724 2730) National Portrait Gallery (0171-747 2885) National Portrait Gallery, Exhibition of the Royal Academy of Arts, *Treasures of England* (0171-300 8000) Tate, *The Great Walkers of Britain* (0171-587 8000) Whitechapel, *Thomas Schütte* (0171-522 7898)

**THE MAGISTRATE**: In Richardson plays the much harassed hero in a witty funny revival of Pinero's farce. **Cast** includes Graham Crowther, **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Tue and Sat, 3pm

**OF BLESSED MEMORY**: The problems of being a Hasidic Jew in drug-dealing Brooklyn. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Tue and Sat, 3pm

**SHIPPING**: West End return for Mark Ravenhill's unrelentingly bleak, humorous farce. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, Tue and Sat, 3pm

**LAKEBOAT**: European premiere of David Hare's first play, dating from 1970, a rugged idea of life aboard a cargo boat on the Great Lakes. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm

**MACBETH**: Exciting and intimate production with Paul Shelley's muscular take on the title role. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm

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### THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**House full, returns only**  
**Seats at all prices**

**HAPPY DAYS**: Amanda Beckett plays Beckett's woman in the sand heap in latest revival of a 20th-century classic. **BAC**, Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223) Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun 6pm. Until March 1

**IN FIVE YEARS' TIME**: Rare chance to see Lorraine's allegorical play about love, fear and prostitution. **Clarendon**, 82 Southway, Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-620 3494) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until March 7

**LAKEBOAT**: European premiere of David Hare's first play, dating from 1970, a rugged idea of life aboard a cargo boat on the Great Lakes. **Lyric Theatre**, 31-33 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-939 8500) Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun 2pm, Wed and Sat, 3pm

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LAW

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LAW REPORT 46

Using juries in fraud cases is costly. Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, discusses reform



Ernest Saunders, Ian Maxwell, and his brother Kevin, right, were participants in some of the most publicised cases in recent years

Dearer by the dozen

The Home Secretary is proposing alternatives to trial by jury in complex fraud cases. The issue last arose 12 years ago, when Lord Roskill's committee on fraud agreed, by seven to one, that trial by judge and a randomly selected jury was no longer a suitable way to bring perpetrators of serious fraud expeditiously and effectively to justice.

towards any incursion into the jury trial system, although the opposition is weakened by the experience of the past 12 years - Guinness, Blue Arrow, the Maxwell brothers and other cases. Not all alternatives to jury trial should produce a knee-jerk reaction. Roskill opted for trial by judge and lay assessors as the most favoured by those consulted. This time the Government should also consider whether any alternative to jury trial should be made optional and, if so, at whose option? A fraud trials tribunal is

considerable burden on the judge to be the sole decision-maker, although recognising that the judiciary would, uncomplainingly, accept the burden. But would the burden be any greater than now? In fraud trials of any complexity, the judge must, over weeks and months, control the conduct of the trial, summing up the issues. Judging alone would mean only the recitation of the complex facts, and the directions on the law and facts would be converted into a written judgment. The trials

by reasoned judgments. There's the rub. It is no longer tolerable for those convicted of serious fraud offences to hear the unarticulated decision of a jury. They rightly demand the reasoned verdict that the single judge can, and does, provide. And a fully reasoned decision is much more susceptible to a proper appeal. A Bar Council working party report in 1992 on long fraud trials said any suggestion of some other form of tribunal to decide certain categories of fraud cases "should be resisted". Two of their reasons were directed to the use of City experts: there was a danger, the report said, that such experts would tend to set special standards of honesty rather than judge reliably on questions of dishonesty. Secondly, the place for the expert, it was said, was in the witness box, not on the bench. Otherwise the trial verdict may be based "on some undisclosed (and possibly misconceived) expert opinion which he happens to hold". There was also a difficulty about the information, highly prejudicial to the defence, withheld from the jury but not from the specialist tribunal. Another objection was "public confidence". Given this opposition from the legal profession, a choice of the mode of trial may be the way forward. Some accused might opt for trial by judge alone. The prosecution might agree to such a mode of trial. Again, if either the Crown or defence would prefer trial by judge alone, ought not the court, if the parties disagree, decide?

There are examples of such procedure in many of the courts, federal and state, of America, where devotion to trial by jury is even greater. But it is not mandatory for offences such as revenue fraud. In the past, the Bar has too often appeared unwilling to compelling law reform. It would attract a favourable public audience if it no longer adhered to its absolute hostility to any encroachment upon trial by judge and jury. The Government has proposed four options for fraud cases: special juries, selected by qualifications or a test, or a pool of jurors with specialist knowledge; trials conducted by a trained single judge or panel of judges, with or without lay experts; a tribunal made up of a trained judge and specialist lay members; and trial by a single judge for key decisions with jury to decide dishonesty.

The Government's proposed changes to trial by jury for frauds:
Special juries - selected by qualifications or a test, or a pool of jurors with specialist knowledge
Trials conducted by a trained single judge or panel of judges, with or without lay experts
A tribunal made up of a trained judge and specialist lay members (Roskill committee's proposal)
Trial by a single judge for key decisions with jury to decide dishonesty. Comments by May 31.

surely a mixture of judicial capacity and professional expertise can that be found only in a mixed tribunal? There are several High Court judges, who have had practices at the Commercial Bar and on becoming judges sat regularly in the commercial court. Many circuit judges in the Crown Courts have also practised in the commercial field and are well able to try serious frauds. The Roskill committee acknowledged that an experienced judge sitting alone would be the most economic way of trying a complex case. But it also said it would place a

An unsuitable job for the injudicious

Eleven days ago, Mr Justice Harman resigned from the High Court Bench after the Court of Appeal criticised him for taking 20 months to give judgment in a case. By the time he decided the matter, he had lost some of his notes of the argument by counsel. The Court of Appeal ordered a retrial. Mr Justice Harman is not the first judge to forget that Magna Carta imposed a duty on the courts not to "delay right or justice" as well as a duty not to sell or deny it. In 1823, the House of Commons debated delays in the Court of Chancery. It was told that a case had been argued in 1817 before the Lord Chancellor, Lord Eldon. When he had been pressed, earlier in 1823, for a judgment in the matter "he had entirely forgotten it", and so the case had to be re-argued. Nowadays higher standards of judicial administration are required. The Court of Appeal recognised that judicial delay "weakens public confidence in the whole judicial process". It "cannot and will not be tolerated" because, if left unchecked, it "would be ultimately subversive of the rule of law". The trial and punishment of Mr Justice Harman raises more troubling issues than the inability of a High Court judge to organise his working life with basic efficiency. We are not discussing a judge with one unfortunate lapse during a distinguished career. Speak to any barrister or solicitor with experience of practice in the court of Mr Justice Harman and you will hear unsettling tales of injudicious conduct, involving rudeness and petty prejudice more worrying than his theatrical showing-off of the "Who is Gazza" variety. This is not to suggest that Mr Justice Harman is other than a good lawyer, or that his offensive manner led him to give bad judgments. But he failed to understand that it is as important to the proper administration of justice that the parties leave court believing that they have had a fair hearing of their case as it is that the judge reaches the right result. This country has resisted the adoption of procedures thought necessary in most other societies to deter and prevent judicial misconduct. The appointment of High Court judges is by the Lord Chancellor alone, with no assistance from any judicial appointments commission. Informal methods of control by taking "soundings" from other lawyers are said to ensure that those who are unsuitable for appointment would not be placed in positions of responsibility on the Bench. Similarly, we lack a judicial performance commission, an institution familiar to many jurisdictions of the Commonwealth and in

most American states, to which those aggrieved by alleged judicial misconduct can make complaints. Such a commission, composed of senior judges and lay people, has power, in extreme cases, to reprimand and discipline errant judges. Our legal system proceeds on the basis that informal methods of control suffice to address any problems and that any such commission would threaten judicial independence. The case of Mr Justice Harman demonstrates the inadequacy of these informal procedures. His appointment by Lord Chancellor Hailsham in 1982 caused considerable surprise in the legal community. Those who knew Jeremiah Harman, QC, did not consider that he was best suited to the role of a judge. It was predictable that it would end in tears. The Lord Chancellor needs assistance from an independent appointments committee to make a recurrence less likely. The importance of judicial independence cannot justify judicial immunity from proper investigation of allegations of misconduct. Mr Justice Harman's behaviour regularly astonished the parties, outraged the lawyers and angered many of his judicial colleagues. And yet he remained on the Bench. The Lord Chancellor's Department must give consideration to adopting disciplinary procedures thought necessary and desirable in other legal systems. Of course, the judge must not be answerable to anyone but the Court of Appeal for the substance of a judgment. And it is important not to waste the time of the judge by requiring answers to petty or vindictive complaints. But if there are regular and serious allegations of a failure to observe the basic obligation to act judiciously, a complaint should be considered by a committee of senior judges (perhaps with some lay membership), with power to reprimand the errant judge and (in gross cases) suspend the judge from service. Judges are mere mortals asked to perform a function that is truly divine ("Judge not that ye be not judged"). Because lawyers are human beings, not machines, some of them will be temperamentally unsuited for office. A mature legal system recognises that amateur procedures for appointment and discipline are inadequate to protect the public interest against possible abuse of judicial power. Forcing the acknowledgement of that basic truth may be the enduring legacy to English law of the unhappy career of Mr Justice Harman. The author is a practising barrister, and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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Waiting to be a QC

IF AT first you don't succeed, try, try, and try again. That is the message shining out from figures released by the Lord Chancellor's Department (LCD) in response to a series of parliamentary questions on applications for silk - or Queen's Counsel. The figures, tabled by the Labour MP Gordon Prentice, show that some barristers are undeterred when their bids for QC status are rebuffed. The record number of applications submitted by an unsuccessful barrister in recent years is 25. Another persistent applicant succeeded at his 15th attempt. Of the 97 High Court judges, nine of whom never took silk, 19 had their first application rejected, six had their second application refused and two made three unsuccessful attempts. Perhaps the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, should heed recent calls for the title of QC to be ditched, if only to spare his former colleagues at the Bar the agony of waiting

for the acceptance letter that may never come. Good timing THIS WEEK'S Oxford Union debate couldn't be better-timed. Geoff Hoon, junior minister at the LCD, will speak on Thursday in favour of the "no win, no fee" system.

He is backed by Chris Ward of Abbey Legal Protection; opposers are Edward Garnier, MP, his Commons sparring partner, and the National Consumer Council's Marlene Winfield. The debate comes after the unveiling tomorrow of fresh details of the department's legal aid reforms.

Women who judge

HOW TO become a judge will be a hot topic for the 1998 Woman Lawyer conference on April 25. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will be grilled on the current system, on whether he intends to abolish the rank of QC and on recent government appointments. The workshops will focus on issues including childcare and tax, women lawyers in public service or business



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Game Dame

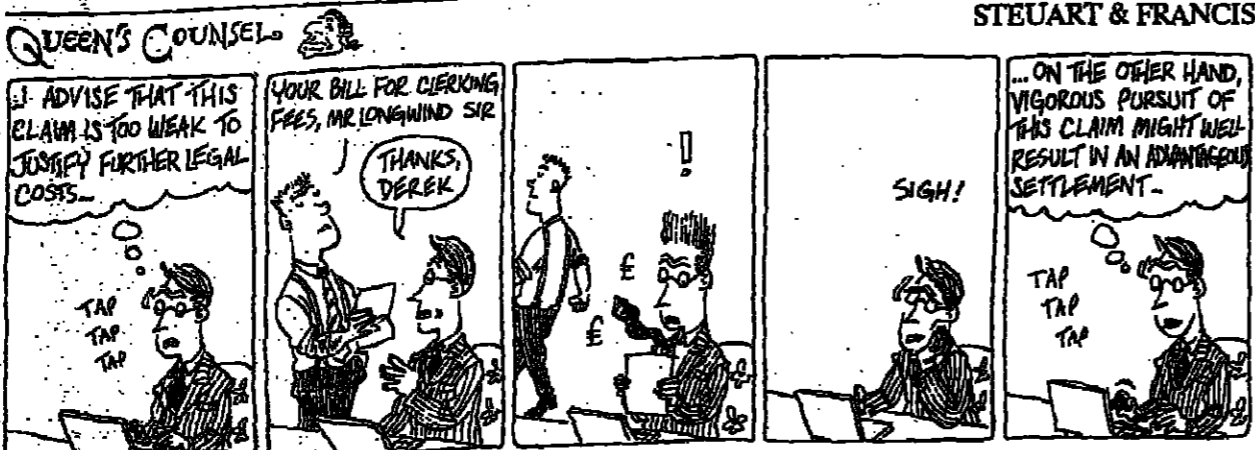
DAME Barbara Mills, QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, has suddenly become more visible. Last week she spoke at a conference urging reforms to improve "justice for people with learning disabilities"; tonight she will talk at the BPP Law School on the Crown Prosecution Service's future. Her speech should be well-informed: the Government-appointed review of the CPS will report soon.

Morris's turn

FIRST Lord Irvine, then the Attorney-General, John Morris, QC, is facing a sex-discrimination action over the appointment of male barristers to the panel that takes civil cases for the Government. Josephine Hayes, who chairs the Association of Women Barristers, says that the Attorney-General breached the law by failing to advertise the posts. Two weeks ago, a solicitor, Jane Colker, started a similar action against Lord Irvine over the appointment of Garry Hart as a special adviser.

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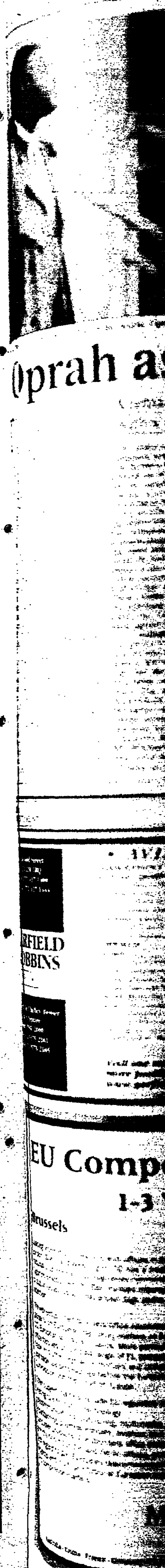
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Ten years of TV that could change her world: Oprah Winfrey in her court battle with Texan cattlemen claims that she is waving the banner of free speech

# Oprah as mad cow victim?

This is the most painful thing I've ever experienced," said Oprah Winfrey, sounding like one of her studio guests. But Ms Winfrey is not in court, where she faces a \$6 million legal action brought against her by Texan cattlemen.

Apart from money, the case raises important questions about the law and freedom of speech.

Ms Winfrey, described by *Life* magazine as "the most powerful woman in America", is being sued in Amarillo, Texas, by cattlemen who claim that a remark she made on television about "mad cow" disease sent shares in beef tumbling. The businessman, Paul Engler, claims to have lost \$6.7 million.

During a programme in April 1996, Ms Winfrey said to suggest that bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) could have infected American cattle. At the heart of the litigation is a ten-second television comment.

Howard Lyman, an experienced cattle-rancher and former representative of the US National Farmers' Union who became vegetarian after studying the British case about Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, was on the show as an expert.

Ms Winfrey said to him: "You said this disease could make AIDS look like the common cold."

"Absolutely," Mr Lyman replied, adding that the American cow with the disease could infect thousands. Ms Winfrey returned to her audience and put it to rest that this was a matter of concern, she said. "It has just stopped me from eating another burger."

**A remark about BSE left the TV chat show host with a £6m law suit. Gary Slapper on the case**

Ten years ago, in England, another prominent woman drew a raft of writs from farmers when, also in a ten-second outburst on television, she denounced a food as unsafe. On December 3, 1988, Edwina Currie, who was then the Conservative Minister for Health, stated during an ITN interview that "most of the egg production in this country is infected with salmonella". The consequential public alarm resulted in egg sales being reduced by half in a matter of days. The nation consumed 30 million eggs a day. Three weeks after the television comment, the Government agreed to pay £19 million in compensation to farmers who had to destroy 400 million eggs, but the litigation never reached court. The disaster grew because the chickens kept on laying eggs. Eleven egg producers issued writs against the Under-Secretary of State, claiming compensation for losses.

Lawyers for the cattlemen claim that Ms Winfrey's remark cost their clients millions of dollars as beef futures fell by 15 cents on the Chicago exchange. Ms

Winfrey's lawyers argue that the two events are unrelated (blaming the price drop on drought) and that their client has the right to free speech unhindered by ranchers, meat-processors or anyone else.

In the first part of the litigation, the ranchers sued using Chapter 96 of the Texan Civil Practice and Remedies Code, which prohibits "false disparagement of perishable food products". Last week this action was rejected at the trial by Judge Mary Lou Robinson because the plaintiffs had failed to prove that Ms Winfrey had "knowingly spread falsehoods". The case will proceed solely on the basis of business defamation, a claim in which the ranchers must prove that Ms Winfrey acted with malice.

Under English law, slanders of goods, a type of malicious falsehood, is an actionable wrong. The 1952 Defamation Act says that it is not necessary for a plaintiff to allege or prove that he suffered actual loss as a result of the slanderous remarks about his trade, provided that the remarks are expressed in a permanent form (like writing or film) and are "calculated to

cause pecuniary damage". Here, calculated does not mean "designed to" but "likely to". It is also necessary for a plaintiff to prove that the defendant spoke with malice, which in this context means simply not in good faith, or recklessness as to whether the comment was true or false.

An action can arise where words go beyond "a mere puff" and constitute untrue statements about a trader's goods. Thus, where it was said of a trader that his wood paving blocks were "in rotten condition" after having been laid, the court held that there had been a slander of the paving contractor's goods.

There have been relatively few cases in this area. One reason may be the expense of a High Court action and a judicial reluctance to muzzle free speech. It is difficult to maintain a balance between allowing people to criticise a producer when there is some, but not necessarily compelling, evidence against it, and protecting the interests of those whose livelihood depends on the product.

In performing this awkward balancing act, the courts are now affected by Article 10 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which guarantees freedom of expression. This consideration might well weigh more heavily with the judiciary when the Convention has been incorporated into English law.

If the cattlemen win their action, a dangerous legal lasso will be put in a spin above the heads of many people who may in future want to exercise freedom of speech.

Dr Slapper is Director of the Law Programme, the Open University.

**Oprah's comment about burgers, on her television show, has raised important questions about free speech and the law**

Paula Davies on changes planned for the youth court

## Nice ideas, but who will pay for them?

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, outlined his plans for the future of youth justice at a recent conference organised by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) and the British Juvenile and Family Courts Society — and even managed a reference to his own parental problem at Christmas.

Most speakers welcomed the changes envisaged for the youth court in the Crime and Disorder Bill now going through Parliament. But I felt a sense of déjà vu. Mr Straw said that "for the first time the principal aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending". As a juvenile and then youth court magistrate for more than 20 years, I thought that was the aim we had always had. Many of us have also tried his suggestion to involve defendants and parents in the process so they understand what is happening.

As well as at court proceedings. Once a youngster has had a final warning, a further offence would be expected to lead to charges in almost all cases.

"I want the youth justice system to promote the 'Three Rs' of restorative justice: restoration and apology to the victim; reintegration into the law-abiding community and responsibility on the part of offenders and their parents." Local authorities will be required to set up multi-agency youth offending teams to tackle the myriad problems associated with youth crime and a youth justice board set up to draw up standards and monitor performance.

Where the money is coming from is another matter entirely, so pilot schemes will be tried out to assess the implications. Here I recalled the success of the intermediate treatment programmes of the 1980s which led to a decline in reported offences along with a decline in the use of custody. Expensive it may have been, but it worked. Even so, the chief anxiety among those at the conference concerned resources. Is central government going to pay for the local authorities?

Looking ahead — and this would require primary legislation — Mr Straw wants first offenders who plead guilty to be referred to a youth panel. There would be no legal representation at this stage. What happens would be something on the lines of the Scottish children's hearings. The panel would draw up a contract with the young offenders and their parents. This would try to tackle the causes of the offending while ensuring reparation to the victim or community.

It all sounds positive, even excellent. But a warning came in a speech from Anne Fuller, who chairs the Magistrates' Association. She pointed out that it might be premature to consider moving the English youth court system in the direction of the Scottish.

"There is little research evidence on the efficacy of the non-criminal approach to dealing with young offenders," she said, "and we must ask the reason for Scotland's high proportion of offenders aged 16 to 20 in custody, the highest per capita in Europe."

The author is an Inner London magistrate.



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Are you ripe for a challenge? Our client is a specialist technology and legal practice then consider this a position at the forefront of legal practice in Australia. Recognised as recruiting the brightest and most commercial lawyers in the Asia-Pacific Region, it now wishes to develop a project finance practice to complement its other practice areas. The firm is offering an irresistible package to a senior project finance lawyer with excellent technical and communication skills and together with the ability and drive to develop a practice. Ref: T04017.C

**TELECOMS**  
NQ to 10 Years Qualified  
Join a young team headed by a leading telecommunications lawyer at this exciting new City firm and enjoy a rewarding career where responsibility and a wide exposure to clients are guaranteed. You banking lawyer. The practice in London is staffed almost exclusively by UK lawyers and, as a result, has a very UK culture. This is a fast rate international practice, handling property deals, outsourcing especially in the Far East, obtaining ISF and other and environment such that you will fit in very quickly. The firm's client base is diverse and includes a very active part in the firm's plans for overall growth. The placement is a genuine opportunity and if you have the talent and personality to succeed, you will. Ref: T04018.G

**INVESTMENT BANK**  
Australia In-House  
Would you move to Australia if it didn't involve a salary cut? If so, then consider this a position at the forefront of investment banking. The division advises public and private sector entities in M&A, private treaty sales and corporate purchases of business, valuations, capital raisings and corporate financial strategy. The team is renowned for its high profile deals and a fat bonus at the end of the year. Don't miss this one. Ref: T04019.C

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**  
Sydney 3 Years Qualified to Senior  
to £100,000  
Our client is a progressive, dynamic young firm based in the West End of Sydney with a strong reputation for entertainment work. A high calibre intellectual property lawyer is being sought to undertake a range of intellectual property work, primarily on the non-contentious side but with the possibility of handling some litigation. Superior quality of work including advising clients in the media and electronics industries. Candidates must have a good academic background and come from a firm with a good reputation in this area. Ref: T04020.L

**COMMERCIAL PROPERTY**  
NQ to 3 Years Qualified  
to £57,000  
If you see yourself as a talented commercial property lawyer then regardless of the size or reputation of your current firm opportunities exist to catapult your career into the major league. This is a fast rate international practice, handling property deals, outsourcing especially in the Far East, obtaining ISF and other and environment such that you will fit in very quickly. The firm's client base is diverse and includes a very active part in the firm's plans for overall growth. The placement is a genuine opportunity and if you have the talent and personality to succeed, you will. Ref: T04021.H

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Please contact Andrea Melnick, Michelle Green or Jonathan Walmsley (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office of GARFIELD ROBBINS for more information in complete confidence. Call Evenings Weekends 0171 431 5860 Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email: andrea@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

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Leading international law firm with offices in Brussels, London, Berlin and Washington DC has a broad national and international regulatory commercial and litigation practice which often involves important legal or public policy issues that attract high profile public attention.

The well-established Brussels office concentrates primarily on European regulatory matters on behalf of US, European and Asian clients. More particularly, the office focuses on a broad range of EU competition, trade, and other regulatory matters and competition and trade law proceedings before the European Commission and the Court of Justice.

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For further information in complete confidence, please telephone Penny Stevenson on 0171 269 2242 or write to her enclosing your CV at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LN or fax on 0171 405 2936. e-mail: pennystevenson@michaelpage.com

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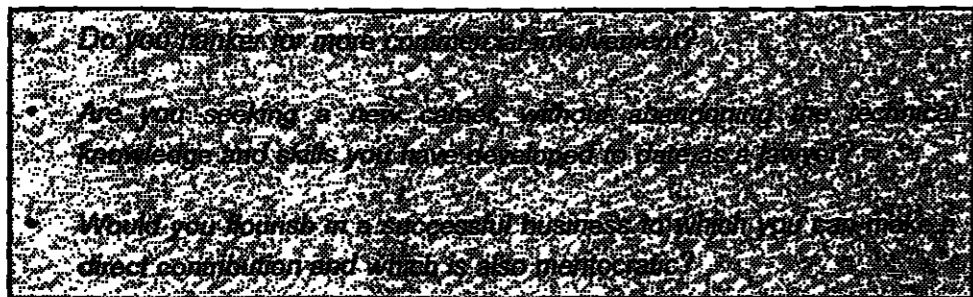
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The consultancy offers full re-training, cutting edge work and most importantly the freedom to innovate and develop new skills. The salary package will be highly competitive with those in the legal sector, with the opportunity to earn far more through high performance.

For further information in complete confidence, please telephone Lisa Owens or Lizzie Orange on 0171 623 3822 (0171 642 5237 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171 623 3823. E-mail lisa@zmb.co.uk Closing date for applications is 16th March 1998. ZMB Industry, a Zarak Group Company.



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**INTELLECTUAL PROP** 3-8 yrs  
London - High profile FMCG co, a leader in marketing & branding, seeks business-minded IP lawyer for well respected legal team - broad range of work. A technical background and/or patent exp'ce ideal.

**INTELLECTUAL PROP** 2-5yrs  
London - Bright IP lawyer to join top blue chip co, providing support and advice to their two-European businesses. Previous international experience preferred.

**BIOTECH CO** Sole Lawyer  
M4 Corridor - Rare opening for bright, IP lawyer, with licensing exp'ce to join progressive co. Broad int'l work. Great opportunity for business involvement.

**IRELAND** Head of Business Affairs  
Successful int'l film co based in Shannon seeks Hd of Leg. Bus. Affs. Copyright exp'ce desirable - commercial involvement. Min 2yrs exp. To 545K + bens. Call ASAP.

**OIL/GAS** 3-6yrs  
London - Market leading co seeks a high calibre lawyer, ideally with some energy sector exp'ce to join well respected team.

**NORTH EAST** 3yrs+  
Leading edge technology co seeks a 2nd lawyer. Some IT exp'ce ideal but a good commercial lawyer would be considered.

**INT'L COMMERCIAL** 3-5yrs  
Surrey - Highly successful multinational seeks a bright, City trained co-comm lwr. Small team, fast moving environment. Some corporate work but most int'l commercial.

**TRADING HOUSE** 2-5yrs  
London - Major int'l trading house seeks strong commercial lawyer to advise on trading, sales, distribution, JV's, financing & EC law. Gd plg. Overseas secondment.

**EMPLOYMENT** 1-4yrs  
High calibre lawyer required by medium sized City firm. First class client base provides excellent mix of contentious/non-contentious work. Enthusiasm and technical excellence are equally important.

**PRIVATE EQUITY** 1-5yrs  
Undoubtedly a market leader in this field, this team is enjoying fantastic growth and attracts talented lawyers who want top quality work and lots of client contact in a relaxed environment. Excellent salaries.

**CONSTRUCTION LIT.** 2-5yrs  
This friendly Covent Garden firm is highly regarded in this field and acts for all sectors of the construction industry. A real opportunity to make a mark in a supportive team environment. A keen interest is more important than previous experience.

**PRIVATE CLIENT** 10-15yrs  
Popular Westminster firm seeks bright lawyer with commercial approach to handle an interesting blend of work. A great opportunity to shine in a friendly department and a genuine quality of life move.

**INSURANCE LIT.** 1-5yrs  
The busy Lloyd's office of this City firm has a broad based insurance practice which includes professional indemnity, product liability and reins'ce disputes. The ideal candidate should have a strong academic background and outgoing personality. A London Market background is preferable.

**KNOW HOW** Full/Part Time  
We are interested on a number of know how positions (for lawyers 2yrs+ exp) in Corporate, Property, IP/IT, Projects, Banking, Capital Markets and Pensions. An excellent alternative to long hours and time sheets!

**SENIOR IP** 4yrs+  
Great opportunity for ambitious lawyer with strong contentious and non-cont IP experience (esp trademarks) for frontline role at highly regarded med-sized firm outside the City. Excellent prospects.

**PROPERTY LIT** 10-15yrs  
We have a number of vacancies for junior property litigators at both large and med-sized firms in the City and West End. March qualifiers who have gained relevant exp'ce during training will be considered.

**IP/IT LITIGATION** 1-3yrs  
Terrific opportunity for bright lawyer to join friendly firm which is investing heavily in this area. Broad litigious IP/IT caseload including anti-piracy work.

**COMMERCIAL** 1-3yrs  
Popular City firm with low staff turnover seeks bright commercial contracts lawyer for high quality caseload generated by extremely impressive domestic and international client base. Attractive salary.

**COMMERCIAL PROP** 1-4yrs  
Interesting role has arisen with friendly highly regarded Lincoln's Inn firm which can offer good quality of life as well as the prospect of a broad commercial property caseload without corporate support work.

**FILM/TV** 5yrs+  
Flourishing med-sized firm with strong commitment to this field seeks heavy-weight film and TV lawyer to build upon its impressive client base. Some evidence of practice development skills required.



For full details of these or other positions please contact Sophie Brooks (Practice-London) or Bridget Burton (In-House) on 0171 430 1711 or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6RN. Fax 0171 831 4186.

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lawyer at its new headquarters in Central London. Reporting to the Director of Legal Services and Company Secretary, the ideal candidate will have 2-4 years' exp, will have trained with a major City firm and is likely to have had good experience in company law, mergers and acquisitions, joint-ventures, and general commercial contracts.

In addition to a generous salary, the remuneration package will include a company car, bonus, private health insurance and pension.

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## PRACTICE | IN-HOUSE

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A wide variety of opportunities exist for lawyers with banking or finance experience at 2-6 years post qualification experience in both London and the overseas market in private practice and commerce and in industry. If you are interested in moving on or just wish to discuss your options with us then please call Jane Foster or Samantha Knowles in complete confidence.

**Defendant Personal Injury Lawyer 2 yrs** WC1  
This small niche practice is urgently seeking a defendant personal injury litigator with at least 2 years post qualification experience. You will be dealing with all matters relating to insurance litigation including RFA public and employer's liability. An interest in marketing is desirable. Contact Samantha Knowles. Ref: 2148

**Shipping Litigation 2 yrs PQE** SE1  
This leading international law firm which provides commercial law services from offices in London and Paris is seeking to recruit a lawyer with around 2 years post qualification experience. You will be joining an enthusiastic team undertaking contentious wet and dry shipping work. Admiralty and shipping law experience is an advantage. Competitive salary and benefits are on offer. Contact Samantha Knowles. Ref: 1694

**Energy Lawyer NQ - 1 yr PQE** WC2  
One of the UK's nationally renowned construction law practices is now seeking to complement its existing energy team by recruiting a NQ - 1 year qualified lawyer with good company commercial experience. There will be the opportunity to travel overseas. Contact Samantha Knowles. Ref: 2382

**Finance Lawyers** Moscow  
This globally renowned law firm is seeking banking and capital markets lawyers at any level of post-qualification experience to work in its Moscow office. An excellent track record is sought. Contact Jane Foster. Ref: 1105

**Company Commercial Lawyer** Cayman Islands  
This leading Cayman firm is looking for a general company commercial lawyer with experience in any of the following areas; joint ventures; financial services or banking. Excellent tax free salary. Contact Jane Foster. Ref: 980

**GERMAN, FRENCH, ITALIAN, DUTCH, BELGIAN, SWEDISH, DANISH, HUNGARIAN, ISRAELI & CZECH SPEAKERS**  
If you are qualified in any of the above countries and have between 2 and 6 years corporate and commercial experience, please contact Naveen Tull who is currently handling a number of assignments for household name US multinationals throughout Europe.

**IT** London  
This company is the largest European computer services company and is in the top three, worldwide. It needs an additional lawyer of between 2 and 5 years experience to deal with a wide range of contracts including outsourcing systems integration and consultancy agreements to joint branding team. Contact Rachael North. Ref: 2308

**Business Strategy** Brussels  
This major multinational construction company needs a finance lawyer with 5 years experience to join their corporate strategy unit in Brussels. This is a non-legal business role in which candidates will develop a deep knowledge of the group and its business strategy. Contact St. John Whitte. Ref: 3111

**Structured Finance** 4 years PQE  
This leading City based European investment bank is seeking an ambitious young banking lawyer with structured finance experience to join its legal team. Contact St. John Whitte. Ref: 3106

**Treasury Cap Markets** 10 years PQE  
This familiar, world leading banking group seeking an experienced solicitor to join its legal team in London. Candidates should have experience in FX, currency options, SDA, credit support and netting. Contact St. John Whitte. Ref: 3105

**Company/Commercial** 10-12 years  
This major international construction company looking at young dynamic lawyer to join their legal team in Middlesex. The work will be of the highest quality and include PFI, MCA and joint ventures. Contact Rachael North. Ref: 2303



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## LOOKING TO MOVE

**ENVIRONMENTAL** To £43,000  
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**COMPANY/COMMERCIAL** To £50,000  
With a very high-profile media clientele like this leading West End firm has, you can be sure of similarly interesting corporate work. But in addition to the quality of work, this is a quality of life move as a firm that has much experience of the brighter side of life. You need 2-4 years' exp to take advantage. Ref: T4028

**FUNDS/PSA** To £50,000  
This is an excellent opportunity to work alongside a leading name in fund management and financial services. With him behind you, you will progress very rapidly up the ranks of this top 20 City firm and the profession generally if you have 0-3 years' exp, either relevant or in general corporate work. Ref: T3032

**AVIATION** To £55,000  
Your career will take off with the huge range of experience you will gain as an aviation lawyer at this top West End firm. Finance, commercial and competition law are all involved in this fascinating field, and you need 0-5 years' transactional exp, not necessarily in aviation. A second language would help. Ref: T19841

**PROJECT FINANCE** To £85,000  
You should be able to afford a 10-gallon hat after you join the London office of this leading Tecon firm, whose energy law practice is arguably without peer. A fantastic opening in the energy team, in terms of money and quality of life, for a finance, corporate or commercial lawyer with 2+ years' exp. Ref: T46691

**BANKING KNOW-HOW** To £65,000  
This top 10 City firm expects its professional support lawyers to work to as high a standard as its fee-earners, which is why their salaries are comparable. But the stress is less and the hours good if you show 4+ years' exp in banking and the right skills for precedent drafting and updating know-how. Ref: T46691

**EMPLOYMENT** To £50,000  
This well-known medium-sized City firm has made great strides and continues to go from strength to strength. This means the prospects are unusually good for an employment lawyer with 0-4 years' exp in contentious and non-contentious work. Ref: T46138

**PROPERTY** To £30,000  
This well-known City firm may have made big strides since a busy time around it in the City, but that does not mean it is cracking the whip too hard. It is a great step for the property lawyer with 12-18 months' exp who joins it on the low side, but the work will be of a high quality. What more could you want? Ref: T46765

**BANKING/CORPORATE** Middle East To £220,000  
The many rewards for joining this top international law firm in the region are not just financial. As a banking/finance lawyer with 8+ years' exp, you will soon head up in Bahrain office while the quality of life for highly corporate/commercial lawyers with 18 months-5 years' exp in Africa outstanding. Ref: T12243

**BANKING** To £50,000  
If you enjoy being a banking lawyer but dislike the media culture that so often surrounds it in the City, then look no further than the London office of this national firm. It will help you enjoy both your work and your working life. You can show 0-5 years' post-graduate leading overseas. Ref: T36633

**IP/IT** To £45,000  
This go-ahead and industrious medium-sized City firm needs IP/IT lawyers 2-4 years' exp who fit the same bill. In return, you can expect an environment that will encourage your professional development and allow you to enjoy personal life. There are some excellent career opportunities too. Ref: T1169

**TAX** 4 years exp To £70,000  
Major top five City firm seeking international tax lawyer with at least 4 years' exp. The tax department deals with the full range of transactions and advice work for corporate and financial clients and you will get quality work, a responsibility and the opportunity to join an expanding practice. Ref: T2869

**EMPLOYMENT/BENEFITS** To £65,000  
You will be given every help to learn new skills as an employment/litigation lawyer with 2-5 years' exp at this medium-sized City firm. The work will be very broad, including corporate immigration, although you need to know tax treatment of termination payments and industrial relations. Ref: T4668

**INSOLVENCY FAR EAST** To £2parttime  
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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Alison Jenkins, Sarah David or Gavin Sharpe (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-731 5699, or 0181-789 7104 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD Leg 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HL. Confidential fax 0171-831 6394.

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A civil law training, with exposure to common law is essential, as is 10 year's experience in a multi-national company or international law firm in Europe or the US. English plus one other European language is also sought.

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This is a unique opportunity for a creative and independently minded lawyer who wants to be part of GE Capital's success as part of a highly professional commercial team whilst continuing to do quality transaction legal work. As a GE Capital lawyer, you will have a highly competitive financial package and access to outstanding global career opportunities.

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the provision of timely and cost effective searching, filing, prosecution, maintenance, and enforcement of Group trade mark rights and to draft agreements and provide advice on the exploitation of trade marks.

You should be educated to degree level, and preferably be a qualified solicitor or registered trade mark agent, although applicants with extensive experience in trade marks will be considered.

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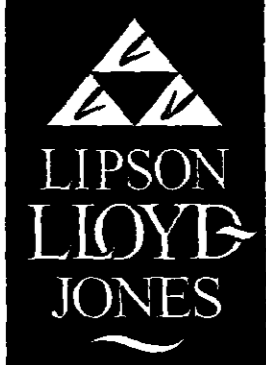
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A barrister with 3PQE+ encompassing international commercial disputes, offshore funds and corporate insolvency issues.

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Initial interviews in London during the first week of March 1998.

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The Corporate Bank has a number of exciting new roles which will appeal to lawyers or others with suitable experience who are interested in providing commercial solutions to legal issues in a demanding environment and who are looking for a wider role as part of the business process rather than purely in a traditional adviser/client relationship.

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London 5+ years PQE

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This is a role for a litigator with at least 5 years experience of major litigation with a strong banking bias gained either in private practice or in-house. The role will include management of litigation with the Bank's external lawyers and developing and maintaining effective systems for the proper management of caseloads.

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Litigator required to manage and develop bank recoveries work

An excellent opportunity for a commercial litigator to take a central role in the management and development of the legal function within three specialist Debt Recovery Units. The Units are dedicated to maximising repayment of impaired business debt and comprise approximately 250 managers and staff. The role will involve close liaison with the Bank's external lawyers and both assisting in the decision making processes and implementation of efficient systems to improve the Bank's recoveries function. A proven record of cost effective team management and the provision of direct legal support is essential.

#### Senior Recoveries Managers

Borehamwood and Cardiff 2+ years PQE

Legal management roles for litigators with a track record

These are stimulating roles for lawyers with at least 2 years experience to work within and support exciting new debt recovery units comprising some 250 banking and clerical staff. The units are dedicated to maximising repayment of impaired business debt. The roles will require lawyers with an in-depth knowledge of corporate and other recoveries, and a proven track record of success in a team environment. An innovative style and ability to operate at senior management level is equally important.

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A superb role for a motivated lawyer to work at the cutting edge of corporate banking. Equipped with a strong background in structured lending and security the successful candidate will work on high value complex transactions. He/she will also be exposed to operational and strategic banking issues on a daily basis. This is an integral role in the management of legal risk in the corporate lending environment.

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## APPOINTMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF HIGH COURT JUDGE

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified practitioners and from serving Circuit Judges in England and Wales who wish to be considered for appointment to the office of High Court Judge to fill vacancies which may arise after 1 October 1998.

*Circuit Judges must have served in that office for at least two years as at 1 October 1998. Other applicants must have a 10 year High Court qualification (right of audience in all proceedings in the High Court) on the same date.*

All eligible persons who make an application will be considered by the Lord Chancellor. It is not essential to make an application in this way in order to be considered for appointment and the Lord Chancellor reserves the right to recommend other candidates to The Queen for appointment. He will recommend those who appear to him to be best qualified for appointment to this office regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

Further information, including the details required to assist the Lord Chancellor to enable him to consider applicants, can be obtained by telephoning 0171 210 8921 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:-

Judicial Appointments Division 1  
Lord Chancellor's Department  
Selborne House, 54/60 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 6QW  
(e-mail: jag.lcdhq@jnet.gov.uk)

Applications must be received by noon on Friday 27 March 1998.

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If you are interested in thinking to us, contact our advising consultants Stephen Rodney or Sarina Hoar on 0171 405 6062 (0171 403 5727 evenings/weekends), or write to them at QD Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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produce evidence of their admission and barristers of their call to the Bar).

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For an application form and information pack, please contact Caroline Lancaster on 0171 230 7416, or write to the Solicitor's Department, Room 413, Wellington House, 57-73 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6BE.

The closing date for completed applications is Wednesday 18th March 1998.

The Metropolitan Police Service is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all staff regardless of sex, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, sexual orientation, religion or disability.



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### CORP FIN (RE-TRAIN) £33-38,000

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### INSURANCE LIT. TO £35,000

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The Cayman Islands are a British Crown Colony in the West Indies located 450 miles south of Miami, Florida. A successful offshore financial centre and popular tourist destination with a population of 35,000, the islands enjoy one of the highest living standards in the Caribbean.

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Applicants should have a good law degree, a professional or postgraduate qualification in law and previous relevant experience, teaching or in practice. Experience in Contract Law of Evidence and an optional course would be an asset, as would a record of research and publication.

Salary will be in the range of C\$42,462-54,675 per annum tax free (C\$1-US\$=1.20). Benefits include air passages, medical care and a Contracted Officers' Supplement Supplement of 15% of Salary paid monthly. Appointment will be on a two year contract.

Application forms, together with job description and recruitment notes are available from:

The Cayman Islands Government Representative  
6 Arlington Street  
London SW1A 1RE  
ENGLAND  
Telephone: 0171 491 7779

Completed applications forms with a curriculum vitae should be returned by March 25 1998

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The post involves supporting a team of lawyers working on a number of ECHR cases. A legal background and at least two years previous experience in the Human Rights field is desirable.

For further details, contact: KHRP, 319, Linden Hall, 162-168 Regent Street, London W1B 5TB.  
Tel: 0171 287 2772 or 734 4927  
Closing date for completed application form: 14 March 1998

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#### Faculty of Law

#### Did you study Law at Hatfield Polytechnic/University of Hertfordshire?

The Law Alumni Association is meeting on Tuesday 31 March 1998 at the St. Albans campus at 6.30 pm to meet Joshua Rosenberg (Legal Correspondent, BBC) and members of the present and former law staff to celebrate 25 years of law.

We would be delighted if you attended.

Telephone Tracy Dilley 01707 286210 for further details.

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My estate is being administered by my executor, Mr. Alan Margald, of 215 St. Albans Road, St. Albans, Herts. SG8 1LH.  
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For confidential advice on moving in-house into banking or commerce, contact one of our consultants:

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Seema Kapoor  
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### Borough of Spelthorne Directorate of Resources

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We are a small, busy Legal Services section and seek to appoint an enthusiastic and flexible solicitor to cover maternity leave for not less than 5 months, commencing as soon as possible.

The precise duties of the post will depend on your skills and experience, but our main requirement is in conveyancing. You will be able to undertake a heavy caseload, covering a broad range of legal services, from Property Law to Criminal/Civil litigation. You should also be comfortable providing legal advice and assistance to the Council and team members on a variety of local authority functions.

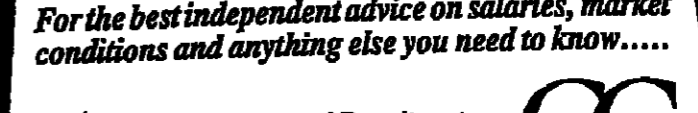
Experience of working in Local Government is desirable but not essential, and a thorough knowledge of complex conveyancing matters would be useful.

For further information and an application form please contact: Central Administration Office, Council Offices, Knowle Green, Staines TW18 1XB. Tel: (01784) 462250 (24 hour answerphone). Please quote ref RD/11. Closing date: 6th March 1998. Interviews will be held week commencing 16th March 1998.

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Challenger

British No 1 climbs again as Henman slips outside top 20

Rusedski returns to world's top five

By Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent

A QUIET opening day to the Guardian Direct Cup in London yesterday ensured that the main topic of conversation centred on events outside the court's boundaries. The revised world rankings revealed that Greg Rusedski's victory in Antwerp on Sunday had swept him up four places to No 5.

ing that well." Rickard said. "He had to rally a lot from the baseline. That is not his favourite role but he dug in. He has improved his consistency beyond anyone's wildest dreams and his mental approach on the court has got a good deal better."



Lee serves during his straight-sets defeat by Ulihrach at Battersea Park yesterday

their first-round match yesterday. Ulihrach, from the Czech Republic, prevailed in straight sets, but before Lee threatened to take the second set from the baseline. The match hinged on a handful of points, with Ulihrach making the most of his greater experience to come through 6-4, 7-6.

mentally. He hardly made any mistakes and played the big points well." Lee, 20, is finding life tough on the main Tour after topping the world junior pile two years ago. His joust with Ulihrach, ranked No 31, offered him a rare opportunity against a top-flight player and he looked far from outclassed. Making the requisite progress to join the elite is a different matter, however.

bottom of the pile," he said. "Everyone is bigger and stronger, and I have been working hard just to keep up." At least this event, for which Lee gained a wild card, offers youngsters such as him a glimpse of the big time.

SNOOKER Dual threat develops to Hendry's primacy

By Phil Yates

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN accepted that he has a chance, albeit an outside one, of replacing Stephen Hendry as the world No 1 after a 9-5 victory over John Higgins, another player with such ambitions. In the final of the Regal Scottish Open in Aberdeen on Sunday...

SAILING Cayard keeps cautious grip

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN SAO SEBASTIAO

PAUL CAYARD, skipper of EF Language, was on course last night to complete his third and most taut leg win of the Whitbread Round the World Race and further strengthen his hold on an event that few predicted he could win at his first attempt.

newcomers have had in mastering a steep Southern Ocean leeward curve. "We have released our pride as good sailors, which we knew we were, but which had been brought into question in the conditions of the Southern Ocean. Our lack of experience was a very understandable reason for our defeat on leg two, but still one leg is enough. I am happy we learnt to deal with the Whitbread with just one spanking."

Chancery Division

Law Report February 24 1998

Chancery Division

Winding up marketing scheme

Trustee disclaimed but gets surplus

In Re Vanilla Accumulation Ltd and Others Before Mr Justice Rattee [Judgment February 13] The court had jurisdiction to make orders for the winding-up of companies, whether registered in the United Kingdom or abroad, or even if unregistered if they were carrying on the marketing of goods in such a way as to constitute a lottery.

Internet of buyers who had to sign a form before application for the conclusion of a contract of purchase of the gold program and reciting that the buyer intended to purchase American golden eagle bullion coins or Britannia bullion coins ("BCs") under the conditions stated in the contract.

original buyer's credit balance rising to SF2,000, less a second administration fee of SF300. 6 Again, he could use his balance to acquire BCs, or roll over some of it into a similar Phase 3, at the end of which the buyer could have achieved a profit of BCs worth SF2,000.

active, productive and growing group of distributors". But there was no evidence that buyers in the accumulation plan did provide those on whose recruiting activities their success depended with such training or support.

In re Lee (a Bankrupt) Before Mr Justice Ferris [Judgment February 13] Where a trustee in bankruptcy had disclaimed a lease under section 315 of the Insolvency Act 1986, the court was not precluded, in exercising its discretion to make a vesting order under section 320 of that Act, from attaching conditions to the order which provided that any surplus arising on the sale of the lease should be paid to the trustee in bankruptcy for the benefit of the creditors.

rights interests and liabilities of the bankrupt in the property and to discharge the trustee as trustee from all personal liability in respect of the property, but it did not affect the rights of any other person, including Mrs Lee.

high bank, the other mortgagee, would get more than what was due under the relevant mortgage. The surplus was not for the Woodwick and AIB to dispose of. That was a matter for the deputy registrar.

Management expenses not deductible The judge had indicated a doubt as to whether and how far he should go behind the 1988 Act. Having done so most thoughtfully, he concluded that Mr Wilkinson had not put forward an acceptable alternative reading of the statutory provision, so opposed to reasons why it should be treated as being directed to a different target.

Importer liable

Reasons not required

Johnson (Inspector of Taxes) v Prudential Assurance Co Ltd

Before Lord Justice Nourse

ings and DIY, Coventry, retailers, of three offences contrary to regulation 13(b) of supplying a dangerous product, namely a claw hammer, when it failed to meet the requirements of British Standard BS876 1995 for the safety of hammers. The justices found that the commission of the offences was "due to the act or default" of the defendants contrary to regulation 15(1) of the 1994 Regulations.

Regina v General Medical Council, Ex parte Salford The General Medical Council was required to give reasons for a decision not to restore a doctor's name to the register of general practitioners save in cases where it was particularly apposite to do so.

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Brooke and Sir Brian Neill [Judgment February 13] Expenses of management deductible by a life assurance company in computing its taxable profits under Case I of Schedule D were not allowable as a deduction in computing its taxable profits on the income minus expenses (I-E) basis provided for by sections 75 and 76 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and as retrospectively recognized by section 629 and (4) of the Finance (No 2) Act 1992.

Lord Justice Nourse said that the appeal arose out of an assessment to corporation tax in the estimated sum of £200 million in respect of the life fund of the Prudential for the calendar year 1992. The assessment having been made on the income on the I-E basis under sections 75 and 76.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.



'Time to lay to rest the outdated stereotype of club members as retired Colonel Blimps'

# MCC agenda confronts question of gender

## THE CASE FOR

**NORMAN WILLIAMS, 83 and a member of MCC for more than 40 years, would welcome the election of women to the club**

IN JUNE 1996 I sat on the front bench of the members' seats in the pavilion at Lord's and watched England take on New Zealand in a one-day international. It was a fine, summer day — and an historic one: the MCC committee had declared that women guests could be brought in to the pavilion to watch the play. My wife, Denise, who used to keep the scorebook for my club side in the pre-laptop days, sat with me and later we took tea in the Long Room bar with my son and daughter-in-law. It was all very civilised and, though groundbreaking, seemed very normal.

The match, too, involved women players. It was not the first time that women had played at Lord's, nor, too, it has since emerged, the first time that women had been admitted to the pavilion for a match (Old England v Lord's Taverners in 1966, not to mention a photographic record from 1918 when exceptions clearly applied during wartime); but a small barrier had fallen, and the heavens did not fall in.



Now MCC's 18,000 members are being asked to remove a larger barrier and admit women to membership of the club. The postal votes, in their thousands, are in and the final hundreds will be cast at the special meeting today. I should count myself and others unfortunate were we to be found among a minority, still more frustrated if the committee's motion secures a majority but fails to obtain the necessary two-thirds support.

The issue is more than political correctness. At the approach of the third millennium we should not be governed by the outlook of early Edwardian or Victorian times, nor even of the days of the long-reigning George III, who was on the throne in 1787 when MCC was founded. In those days the behaviour of the gentlemen ensured that ladies would withdraw on occasions deemed too coarse for polite society.

MCC members are not, anyway, renowned for their coarseness or for rowdy goings-on in the inner sanctum of the Long Room or other parts of the pavilion. They have joined the club because of their love

of cricket, serving their time on the waiting-list or taking a fast track through their playing prowess.

Nobody, surely, has joined MCC merely because it is an all-male institution, a place to escape from women. The prime attraction of membership is the privilege that payment of the annual subscription confers of admission to all matches at Lord's and of precedence in applying for tickets for the big fixtures at the ground.

We have a woman as head of state, we have had a woman as prime minister; young women now attend some of our most famous (formerly all-boys) schools and formerly all-male Oxbridge colleges; some become members of the Bar, of the Bench and of Parliament, so why should they not be members of the most famous cricket club in the world?

Wrongly, cricket is often perceived as elitist, so what better contrary message could MCC — the private club with the public profile — give to the outside world than to make half of the population eligible at least to apply for membership and perhaps to lay to rest the long outdated stereotype of club members as retired Colonel Blimps

with a predilection for pink gin. The membership for many years has had a broad social base.

There should be no fear that women will overrun the club. A few honorary memberships for outstanding services to the game — as given to men — would be the first step and would offer recognition, for example, of the foresight of the women's administrators who inaugurated their World Cup two years before the men's.

The next stage would be the election, perhaps within two years, of women who would qualify as playing members and could form an MCC women's section to expand the club's role in spreading the game through its matches against schools and clubs and through its overseas tours. Other applicants would have to take their place on the waiting-list alongside the men who expect to wait for 15-20 years; positive discrimination should be discouraged.

I sincerely hope that the motion enabling ladies as well as gentlemen to be eligible for membership receives the requisite majority today. We do not want to be dubbed the M(isogynists)CC.



The sight of women watching from the pavilion at Lord's, as here in June 1996, should become commonplace, Norman Williams, seated right with his wife Denise, says

## Preserve this refuge from polite conversation

### THE CASE AGAINST

**IVO TENNANT, 41, has been a member of MCC for more than 20 years and wants to maintain the male domain**

CONTRARY to popular imagination, the rules of MCC have never specifically opposed the election of women. Although the instincts of members of any club are for privacy and exclusivity, it was never envisaged that women would wish to join, nor indeed that they would ever deign to promote their own cause.

If women are permitted to join MCC, then why not the Kingston Club at Sabina Park, the Queen's Park Club at Queen's Park Oval, or Boodle's, Brooks's, White's Club or any other West End club of commensurate standing? Or Freemasonry? Why have a gentlemen's club at all? For one simple reason. There should be a refuge for like-minded men, many of whom are clubbable by nature and need somewhere to be blokeish.

The precursors of the founders of MCC were watched on the fields of play by ladies in flowing skirts and ostrich-feather hats. Double Century, the history of this great club, records that "it was quite the thing for a gentleman cricketer to step on a lady's skirt, apologise profoundly and then, by way of making amends, suggest tea in an intimate arbour". What could be more charming? Women, far from being treated as servile, were elevated on to a pedestal from which they now wish to descend.

Most men like to watch cricket in the company of other men. I write as an MCC member who by preference spends most non-working hours with his family. When watching cricket, I would rather do so in the company of those with whom I played the game or have followed it since childhood. These do not encompass women. Close of play is the time for their company. This is not to say that all potential female members of MCC

are ignorant of cricket. Yet if the wives of my friends were to become elected — as some of them would — I know that I should have to talk to them in the pavilion as though a guest at their home or they guests at mine. In other words, make polite conversation unsuited to trying to concentrate on events in the middle. Not to do so would lead to a breakdown in civility and deference.

Not every applicant for election will be enthralled by the game. There will, perhaps, be women keen to join to keep their husbands' company or, indeed, to keep an eye on them. Others will relish the status, the novelty. The argument that women will not be elected, anyway, for a further 15 to 20 years is beside the point. Already, there are calls for the waiting list, which is quite long enough as it is, to be jumped in

certain cases. This is certain to cause much resentment.

It is what occurred at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. And there are simply too many members, anyway. In recent years, there has been the unedifying sight of perspiring members of advanced years rushing through the Grace Gates to book a seat in the pavilion at breakfast-time on Test match days. It should not have come to that.

The fact that membership fees will have to be spent, if women are elected, on new facilities, is another concern — if of less significance. MCC, in its circular to members, admitted that the character of the pavilion would be altered considerably, although the committee might not necessarily have had in mind the introduction of new washrooms. In one sense, though, the com-

mittee is correct. The character of Lord's will be changed irreparably. MCC will become akin to a Holiday Inn. The whole point about a club — and particularly the most prominent cricket club in the world — is its uniqueness. There is quite sufficient equality between the sexes. Talk about a need "to move with the times" is glib. MCC members, for the most part, live their lives in a way their fathers simply would not recognise.

There is, too, the overriding suspicion that for all the good intentions and affability of the president, the fact that lottery money was not granted by the Sports Council for the rebuilding of the Grandstand has been a significant factor in the committee's advocacy of women for election. That, and an absurdly oversensitive reaction to gibes in the media, change is being recommended for the sake of appeasing outsiders. A great institution should be above it.

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01 Damon Hill  
02 Michael Schumacher  
03 David Coulthard  
04 Giancarlo Fisichella  
05 Jacques Villeneuve  
06 Olivier Panis

**GROUP B**

12 Alexander Wurz  
13 Ralf Schumacher  
14 Jarno Trulli  
15 Johnny Herbert  
16 Mika Salo  
17 Pedro Diniz

**GROUP C**

07 Heinz-Harald Frentzen  
08 Eddie Irvine  
09 Mika Hakkinen  
10 Jean Alesi  
11 Rubens Barrichello

**GROUP D**

18 Jan Magnussen  
19 Toranosuke Takagi  
20 Ricardo Rosset  
21 Shinji Nakano  
22 Esteban Tuero

**GROUP E**

23 Williams  
24 Ferrari  
25 Benetton

**GROUP F**

26 McLaren  
27 Jordan  
28 Prost

**GROUP G**

29 Sauber  
30 Arrows  
31 Stewart

**GROUP H**

32 Tyrrell  
33 Minardi

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FOOTBALL

Pires shows interest in offer from Arsenal

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ROBERT PIRES, the highly-rated France and Metz striker, will decide within the next six weeks whether to join Arsenal. Pires, who would cost about £5 million, has also attracted the interest of Newcastle United, Juventus, Barcelona and Real Madrid.



Pires: key France striker becoming known outside France

Pires, Metz's leading scorer this season with 11 league goals, is under contract until 2000 but has a long-held desire to play abroad. He has talked in length with Patrick Vieira, the France and Arsenal midfielder, about the merits of playing in England.

"I've often discussed it with Patrick and, from his description, it sounds like paradise," Pires said. "What impresses me most is Arsenal's set-up and the commitment of the fans, which is something we lack in France."

"Going abroad is one of the main aims of my career. Players in England seem to enjoy far more freedom on the pitch. There has been a conversation with Howard but nothing more."

more discussions with my agent before making up my mind: but I want to have everything sorted out before the World Cup finals. I'll make my decision by early April."

Wenger sees Pires as a possible replacement for Ian Wright, 34, whose future at Highbury appears increasingly clouded because of injuries and loss of form. However, while Wenger might be open to offers for Wright, he is less likely to sanction the departure of Tony Adams, the Arsenal and England captain.

Weekend reports suggested that Adams may be unsettled at the club, which he joined as a schoolboy, and was looking for a lucrative move to conclude his 15-year career. Manchester United, who were rebuffed in their attempts to buy him two years ago, and Rangers would probably lead the bidding.

Yet although Adams, 31, is aware of the financial rewards now available in the FA Cup Premiership and beyond, he still has more than a year left on his contract and is more concerned about the direction in which Arsenal are heading under Wenger. Any thoughts that he may have of leaving will be put aside until after the World Cup finals.

Tottenham Hotspur yesterday strengthened their injury-depleted squad by signing Moussa Saib, the Algeria midfielder. Saib, 28, completed his move from Valencia, of Spain, for £2.3 million and is expected to make his debut in the Premiership match against Bolton Wanderers at White Hart Lane on Sunday.



Diego Fuser, the Italy midfielder, scores the first Lazio goal in the 3-0 win over Internazionale in Rome

Lazio close in on negative leaders

After a wild Sunday in the Italian championship, Lazio have emerged as title challengers. Their 3-0 win in Rome against Internazionale, while Juventus, the leaders, were going down by the same surprising score in Florence, means that they share second place with Inter, four points behind Juve.

Juventus's collapse, which could have something to do with the double leg fracture suffered three weeks ago by Ciro Ferrara, their key defender, comes at a delicate and significant moment as they prepare to entertain Dynamo Kiev in a European Cup quarter-final first leg tomorrow week.

Marcello Lippi, the Juventus manager, fielded a surprisingly feeble team against Fiorentina, initially leaving his striker, Filippo Inzaghi, on the bench. Even after Inzaghi came on, however, Fiorentina increased their lead with a cunning lob by Arsenal Robbati. Aldo Fruciano, the defender, scored the first Fiorentina goal and also cleared off the line.

Luis Oliveira, Domenico Torricio and Robbati - that their decision to buy Edmundo, the Brazil striker, seems ridiculous. As for the volatile Edmundo, alias The Animal, he has flounced back to Rio, refusing to return, despite the threat of draconian sanctions, unless he is guaranteed a regular place. "If that happens," Stefan Schwarz, the club's former Arsenal midfielder, joked, "I shall go and play in Rio."

As for Batistuta, he has been snubbed yet again by Daniel Passarella, the Argentine manager, who has omitted him from the team that plays an international against Yugoslavia today in Mar del Plata. It does seem strange that Passarella should prefer Hernan Crespo, who has only just found form at Parma.

Florentina's fans, officials and players refuse to accept Passarella's explanation that Batistuta has not learnt to fit in with Argentina's tactics. Alberto Malesani, the Fiorentina coach, said: "There must be something behind it and sooner or later Passarella must explain."

Overseas View



BRIAN GLANVILLE

Marcelo Salas, who scored both goals for Chile in their recent 2-0 win over England at Wembley.

Most Brazilian critics, however, support Pelé, who has just had a significant triumph, convincing the Senate to approve a Bill that obliges all clubs to become limited companies within two years. "We often forget," Pelé said, "that most Brazilian clubs are bankrupt now."

the latter beat Morocco 2-1 in the quarter-finals. Jomo Sono, South Africa's temporary coach, whose side face the Democratic Republic of Congo in the semi-finals, was unenthusiastic. "I think the game was too tactical," he said. Burkina Faso play Egypt in the other semi-final.

Romario, the Brazil centre-forward, has exchanged barbed words with Pelé. After Brazil's Gold Cup fiasco, Pelé accused Romario of not running about and not training adequately. Romario answered: "His Excellency, the Minister of Sport, should concern himself more with being a minister and talk less, because, when he does, he just talks nonsense."

João Havelange, the Fifa president, whose son-in-law, Ricardo Teixeira, is president of a much-peevéd Brazilian Soccer Federation, has threatened to ban Brazil from the World Cup if such a law is passed. But, lately, he has remained strangely quiet.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS: SEVILLE, Spain: Marathon: Merv, J. Mui (Ken) 2:13.36; 5000m: J. Mui (Ken) 2:13.36; 10000m: J. Mui (Ken) 4:26.72; 15000m: J. Mui (Ken) 6:40.00; 20000m: J. Mui (Ken) 8:53.28; 25000m: J. Mui (Ken) 11:06.44; 30000m: J. Mui (Ken) 13:19.59; 35000m: J. Mui (Ken) 15:32.74; 40000m: J. Mui (Ken) 17:45.89; 45000m: J. Mui (Ken) 19:59.04; 50000m: J. Mui (Ken) 22:12.19; 55000m: J. Mui (Ken) 24:25.34; 60000m: J. Mui (Ken) 26:38.49; 65000m: J. Mui (Ken) 28:51.64; 70000m: J. Mui (Ken) 31:04.79; 75000m: J. Mui (Ken) 33:17.94; 80000m: J. Mui (Ken) 35:31.09; 85000m: J. Mui (Ken) 37:44.24; 90000m: J. Mui (Ken) 39:57.39; 95000m: J. Mui (Ken) 42:10.54; 100000m: J. Mui (Ken) 44:23.69; 105000m: J. Mui (Ken) 46:36.84; 110000m: J. Mui (Ken) 48:50.00; 115000m: J. Mui (Ken) 51:03.15; 120000m: J. Mui (Ken) 53:16.30; 125000m: J. Mui (Ken) 55:29.45; 130000m: J. Mui (Ken) 57:42.60; 135000m: J. Mui (Ken) 59:55.75; 140000m: J. Mui (Ken) 62:08.90; 145000m: J. Mui (Ken) 64:22.05; 150000m: J. Mui (Ken) 66:35.20; 155000m: J. Mui (Ken) 68:48.35; 160000m: J. Mui (Ken) 71:01.50; 165000m: J. Mui (Ken) 73:14.65; 170000m: J. Mui (Ken) 75:27.80; 175000m: J. Mui (Ken) 77:40.95; 180000m: J. Mui (Ken) 79:54.10; 185000m: J. Mui (Ken) 82:07.25; 190000m: J. Mui (Ken) 84:20.40; 195000m: J. Mui (Ken) 86:33.55; 200000m: J. Mui (Ken) 88:46.70; 205000m: J. Mui (Ken) 91:00.00; 210000m: J. Mui (Ken) 93:13.15; 215000m: J. Mui (Ken) 95:26.30; 220000m: J. Mui (Ken) 97:39.45; 225000m: J. Mui (Ken) 99:52.60; 230000m: J. Mui (Ken) 102:05.75; 235000m: J. Mui (Ken) 104:18.90; 240000m: J. Mui (Ken) 106:32.05; 245000m: J. Mui (Ken) 108:45.20; 250000m: J. Mui (Ken) 110:58.35; 255000m: J. Mui (Ken) 113:11.50; 260000m: J. Mui (Ken) 115:24.65; 265000m: J. Mui (Ken) 117:37.80; 270000m: J. Mui (Ken) 119:50.95; 275000m: J. Mui (Ken) 122:04.10; 280000m: J. Mui (Ken) 124:17.25; 285000m: J. Mui (Ken) 126:30.40; 290000m: J. Mui (Ken) 128:43.55; 295000m: J. Mui (Ken) 130:56.70; 300000m: J. Mui (Ken) 133:09.85; 305000m: J. Mui (Ken) 135:23.00; 310000m: J. Mui (Ken) 137:36.15; 315000m: J. Mui (Ken) 139:49.30; 320000m: J. Mui (Ken) 142:02.45; 325000m: J. Mui (Ken) 144:15.60; 330000m: J. Mui (Ken) 146:28.75; 335000m: J. Mui (Ken) 148:41.90; 340000m: J. Mui (Ken) 150:55.05; 345000m: J. Mui (Ken) 153:08.20; 350000m: J. Mui (Ken) 155:21.35; 355000m: J. Mui (Ken) 157:34.50; 360000m: J. Mui (Ken) 159:47.65; 365000m: J. Mui (Ken) 162:00.80; 370000m: J. Mui (Ken) 164:13.95; 375000m: J. Mui (Ken) 166:27.10; 380000m: J. Mui (Ken) 168:40.25; 385000m: J. Mui (Ken) 170:53.40; 390000m: J. Mui (Ken) 173:06.55; 395000m: J. Mui (Ken) 175:19.70; 400000m: J. Mui (Ken) 177:32.85; 405000m: J. Mui (Ken) 179:46.00; 410000m: J. Mui (Ken) 181:59.15; 415000m: J. Mui (Ken) 184:12.30; 420000m: J. Mui (Ken) 186:25.45; 425000m: J. Mui (Ken) 188:38.60; 430000m: J. Mui (Ken) 190:51.75; 435000m: J. Mui (Ken) 193:04.90; 440000m: J. Mui (Ken) 195:18.05; 445000m: J. Mui (Ken) 197:31.20; 450000m: J. Mui (Ken) 199:44.35; 455000m: J. Mui (Ken) 201:57.50; 460000m: J. Mui (Ken) 204:10.65; 465000m: J. Mui (Ken) 206:23.80; 470000m: J. Mui (Ken) 208:37.00; 475000m: J. Mui (Ken) 210:50.15; 480000m: J. Mui (Ken) 213:03.30; 485000m: J. Mui (Ken) 215:16.45; 490000m: J. Mui (Ken) 217:29.60; 495000m: J. Mui (Ken) 219:42.75; 500000m: J. Mui (Ken) 221:55.90; 505000m: J. Mui (Ken) 224:09.05; 510000m: J. Mui (Ken) 226:22.20; 515000m: J. Mui (Ken) 228:35.35; 520000m: J. Mui (Ken) 230:48.50; 525000m: J. Mui (Ken) 233:01.65; 530000m: J. Mui (Ken) 235:14.80; 535000m: J. Mui (Ken) 237:27.95; 540000m: J. Mui (Ken) 239:41.10; 545000m: J. Mui (Ken) 241:54.25; 550000m: J. Mui (Ken) 244:07.40; 555000m: J. Mui (Ken) 246:20.55; 560000m: J. Mui (Ken) 248:33.70; 565000m: J. Mui (Ken) 250:46.85; 570000m: J. Mui (Ken) 252:60.00; 575000m: J. Mui (Ken) 254:73.15; 580000m: J. Mui (Ken) 256:86.30; 585000m: J. Mui (Ken) 258:99.45; 590000m: J. Mui (Ken) 261:12.60; 595000m: J. Mui (Ken) 263:25.75; 600000m: J. Mui (Ken) 265:38.90; 605000m: J. Mui (Ken) 267:52.05; 610000m: J. Mui (Ken) 269:65.20; 615000m: J. Mui (Ken) 271:78.35; 620000m: J. Mui (Ken) 273:91.50; 625000m: J. Mui (Ken) 276:04.65; 630000m: J. Mui (Ken) 278:17.80; 635000m: J. Mui (Ken) 280:30.95; 640000m: J. Mui (Ken) 282:44.10; 645000m: J. Mui (Ken) 284:57.25; 650000m: J. Mui (Ken) 287:10.40; 655000m: J. Mui (Ken) 289:23.55; 660000m: J. Mui (Ken) 291:36.70; 665000m: J. Mui (Ken) 293:49.85; 670000m: J. Mui (Ken) 296:03.00; 675000m: J. Mui (Ken) 298:16.15; 680000m: J. Mui (Ken) 300:29.30; 685000m: J. Mui (Ken) 302:42.45; 690000m: J. Mui (Ken) 304:55.60; 695000m: J. Mui (Ken) 307:08.75; 700000m: J. Mui (Ken) 309:21.90; 705000m: J. Mui (Ken) 311:35.05; 710000m: J. Mui (Ken) 313:48.20; 715000m: J. Mui (Ken) 316:01.35; 720000m: J. Mui (Ken) 318:14.50; 725000m: J. Mui (Ken) 320:27.65; 730000m: J. Mui (Ken) 322:40.80; 735000m: J. Mui (Ken) 324:53.95; 740000m: J. Mui (Ken) 327:07.10; 745000m: J. Mui (Ken) 329:20.25; 750000m: J. 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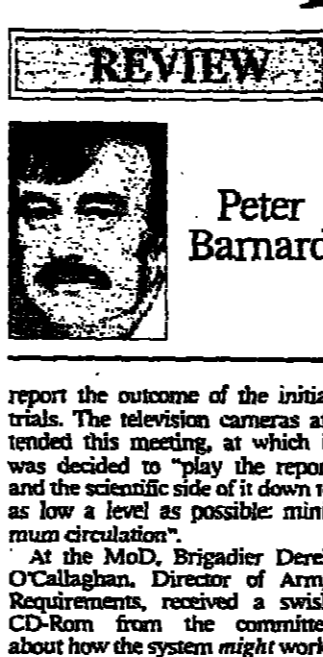


Past, present, future imperfect conditional

You can be certain that anything experimental connected with the Armed Forces will involve sets of initials. This time DERA and RST...

Unfortunately certain embarrassments were looming. Somewhere in Wiltshire, a British Private, Michael Poole, and an American Sergeant, Mitchell Wideman, were being lited out as the prototype Future Soldiers...

The field trials were not a success, but these are early days. The video screen was no good, because it was rendered unreadable by bright sunlight...



prompting him to add a further £4 million to the £3 million already spent on the project. No doubt this will prove to be more than the act of faith that was implied by the programme...

has blown Gary and his son into the future. Perhaps someone who understood that paragraph could explain it to me.

his new book of essays on acting is "a riposte to what's generally called the Stanislavsky system, which suggests that the actors and actresses create in themselves an emotional state and then go out and perpetrate it on the audience...

- BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (6057)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (60347)
8.00 Style Challenge (6127163)
8.25 Change That (6146298)
8.50 Kilroy (2190705)
10.30 Can You Survive? Worst Cook Chubby victors lose breakfast parcels (T) (2189569)
10.55 The Really Useful Show Ninley/Harriet cooks for 100 elderly VIPs (T) (7079688)
12.00 News (T) (6066231)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (1063968)
12.35 Wipeout (6628244)
1.00 News (T) and weather (62344)
1.30 Regional News (T) (7156189)
1.40 The Weather Show (1132268)
1.45 Neighbours (T) (21268182)
2.10 Ironside (T) (6125057)
3.00 Lion Country Rhinoceros and Babo look home in a heavyweight lovers' tilt (4612)
3.30 Spidey (6322238) 3.35 Playdays (407502) 3.55 Hubbul (1242968) 4.10 Chucklewood Critics (6818521) 4.35 The Really Wild Show: birds of prey, a 150-year-old giant tortoise and baby lambs (T) (6511078) 5.00 Newsround (T) (7039000) 5.10 Grange Hill (T) (4359231)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (514165)
6.00 News (T) and weather (2728)
6.30 Regional News (T) (231)
7.00 Holiday Cape Town; the Greek Island of Halki; cycling across Jordan; Cornwall's Lizard Point (T) (9311)
7.30 EastEnders: How's bizarre behaviour causes consternation for Lennie and Robbie (T) (415)
8.00 Doctors: Orders New series continues as 'GPs' in the seaside town of Midsford, Somerset (T) (5231)
8.30 A Question of Sport: Teddy Sheringham, Johnnie Walker, Ian Wright, Steve Davis and England cricket captain Nasser Hussain (T) (4368)
9.00 News (T) (6066231) (T) (12724)
9.30 One Foot in the Grave (T) (12724)
10.00 CrimeWatch UK: Reconstructions of two armed robberies - one at a house in Kettering, the other at a Brighton jeweller's (T) (523827)
10.50 Peasans: A fly-on-the-wall documentary on the rollercoaster fortunes of Sunderland Football Club during their 1996-1997 season in the Premiership (T) (68902)
WALES: 10.50 Education Day (745221) (1941) 10.55 Premier League Football: Chelsea v Arsenal (111.56)
12.05pm FILM: Green Is (74054) 1.50 News-headlines and weather (685858) 1.55 BBC News 24
11.40 CrimeWatch UK Update (T) (310502)
11.50 Green Ice (1981) with Ryan O'Neal, Arnie Archer and Omar Sharif. An unemployed electronics engineer gets mixed up in a plot to steal a cache of emeralds while helping a woman to search for her missing sister. Directed by Ernest Day (T) (705453)
1.45pm Weather (3708336)
1.50 BBC News 24
VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme indicate the Video PlusCode which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme. The Video PlusCode is a 5-digit number which you enter on your video recorder. Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2
6.35pm Paris: Spectacle of Modernity (357205)
7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and singing) (3833628)
7.15 Teletext (T) (5020415) 7.40 The Wacky Races (T) (707778) 8.00 Blue Peter (T) (147078) 8.25 The Secret Life of Toys (T) (500700) 8.45 The Record (684838) 8.10 Instrumental Tales (602203) 8.25 See You, See Me (512258) 8.40 Numbertime (394214) 10.00 Teletext (T) (45415) 10.30 Watch (381078) 10.45 Science Zone (916507) 11.05 Space Ark (934873) 11.15 Megamaths (5113453) 11.35 History File (T) (3749163) 12.00 See Hear (T) (71985) 12.30pm Working Lunch (65255) 1.00 Framjam Sam (T) (1337231) 1.10 The Great Work (8015231) 2.10 Tennis (6538279) 2.40 News (T) 2.45 Westminster (9791521) 3.25 News (T) 3.30 The Village (T) (837) 4.00 Real Rooms (T) (570788) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (537387) 4.55 Esther: Forbidden Love (4236706) 5.30 Today's the Day (908)
6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air (T) (812163)
6.25 Heartbreak High (T) (75505)
7.10 The O Zone: Natalie Imbruglia and Hindi Hicks (228417)
7.30 From the Edge: Return of the disability magazine. Plans for cutting benefits (T) (647)
8.00 University Challenge: Magdalen College, Oxford v the Open University (3873)
8.30 Food and Drink: Antony Worrall Thompson prepares souvlaki; and visits Maidstone Prison to help inmates to prepare a charity lunch 'Big Cooks' Plus: Forbidden Love (4236706) 5.30 Today's the Day (908)
9.00 In Sickness and in Health (T) (2502)
9.30 Children of Divorce (T) The last programme in the series looks at stepfamilies (10368)
10.00 How Do You Want Me? New comedy series from Simon Nye about newswomen and Lisa Lyons moving back to the country to be near her family. With Charlotte Coleman, Dylan Moran, Frank Frintley and Diana Fariis (T) (72618)
10.30 Newswatch (T) (312417)
11.15 Selfield (400827)
11.40 The Larry Sanders Show with David Duchovny and Elvira Costello (272543)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (454855) 12.35am Weather
12.30 Learning Zone: Wood, Brass and Baboon Bones (34361) 1.00 Golefs: Enduring Legacy (13545) 2.00 Schools: Modern Languages (54831) 3.00 FI Korean Act 1 Part 1: Japanese Caricatures (24903) 5.00 Business and Training: Cover Moves (482545) 5.45 The Invention of Invention (43699)
12.30pm FILM: Green Is (74054) 1.50 News-headlines and weather (685858) 1.55 BBC News 24
11.40 CrimeWatch UK Update (T) (310502)
11.50 Green Ice (1981) with Ryan O'Neal, Arnie Archer and Omar Sharif. An unemployed electronics engineer gets mixed up in a plot to steal a cache of emeralds while helping a woman to search for her missing sister. Directed by Ernest Day (T) (705453)
1.45pm Weather (3708336)
1.50 BBC News 24
VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme indicate the Video PlusCode which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme. The Video PlusCode is a 5-digit number which you enter on your video recorder. Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

- HTV
6.00am GMTV (5344637)
9.25 Wm, Love or Drew (T) (6126218)
9.35 Regional News (6959569)
10.00 The Time, The Place (T) (72569)
10.30 This Morning (T) (587178)
12.20pm Regional News (9362415)
12.30 News (T) and weather (6585637)
12.35 Shortland Street (6590328) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (7056807) 1.50 Crosswits (2146415) 2.20 Chef Search (9321900) 2.50 Vanessa (T) (6847279) 3.20 News (T) (5218434)
3.25 Regional News and weather (5215705)
3.30 Potamus Park (1267298) 3.40 Wizards (537702) 3.50 Rupert (T) (4094415) 4.15 Extreme Ghostbusters (T) (932294) 4.40 Westworld (T) (6150724)
5.10 Can You Keep a Secret? (5831811)
5.10 WALEs: Catchphrase (5831811)
5.40 News (T) and weather (469900)
6.00 Home and Away (T) (718989)
6.25 HTV Weather (42057)
6.30 Regional News (927)
7.00 Emmerdale: Jan has another home visit and Emma accuses her father of killing her horse (T) (1279)
7.30 James' Journal (T) (811)
8.00 The Bill: The Parent Trap Croft has to deal with the case of a couple who want to have their daughter arrested (T) (2417)
8.30 David Jason in His Element: The actor has a deep-sea encounter with performing Elvis lookalikes (T) (9434)
9.00 McCallum: Running on Empty. Although McCallum has resigned, he won't let go when the mortuary is broken into, and corpses and related samples are stolen. With John Hannah and Zara Turner. Last in series (T) (5569)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (61944)
10.30 Regional News and weather (734873)
10.40 Hillsborough (T) (T) (2427027)
11.40 The Guest List (797502)
11.40-12.40am WALEs: Charlie Grace (827434)
12.10am Tales From the Crypt: An unscrupulous plantation owner uses voodoo to make an heiress his wife (4510632)
12.40 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (583800)
1.15 The Fashion Police (66038)
1.45 Puppet on a Chain (1970) Thriller with Sven-Bertil Talle, Barbara Parkins and Alexander Knox. Directed by Geoffrey Reeve (252308)
3.30 Football Extra (217727)
4.25 TV Nightcracker (4039458)
5.30 News (63492)

- CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.25pm-1.25 A Country Practice (5562328)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5831811)
6.25-7.00 Central News (658881)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (811)
11.40 Regard (693882)
12.45am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (69125)
1.50 Film: Lambada - Forbidden Dance (233635)
4.25 Central Jobfinder '98 (4741036)
5.20 Asian Eye (473459)
As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 illuminations (862415)
12.55 Home and Away (6560328)
1.25-1.50 Emmerdale (7056976)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5831811)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (98237)
7.30-8.00 Wild West Country presented by Nicola Davies (811)
11.40 A Year in the Fast Lane (827434)
As HTV West except:
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5831811)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (347)
6.30-7.00 Surprise Chefs (927)
7.30-8.00 24 Hours (811)
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block B (827434)
5.00am Freescraper (25274)
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (9974250)
12.55-1.25 Surprise Chefs (6560328)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5831811)
6.25 Anglia Weather (425788)
6.25-7.00 Anglia News (658881)
7.30-8.00 A Place in the Country (811)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (343279)
11.40 Midweek Kick-Off (827434)
Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (54845)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (72057)
9.00 Yegollon (674786)
11.30 Powerhouse (6163)
12.00 Montel Williams (66057)
12.30pm Sesame Street (25298)
1.00 Slot Melthrin (11313279)
1.15 Y Blobs (11301434)
1.30 Living Sex (24569)
2.00 All That Gitters (8705)
2.30 The Windmills: The Sale of a Lifetime (89144)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (540)
4.30 Countdown (724)
5.00 5 Pump (9057)
5.30 Classic Planet (796)
6.00 Newsworld (287453)
6.10 Hero (861095)
7.00 Pabot v Chm (750279)
7.25 Dudley (855453)
8.00 V Sloe Gif (8568)
8.30 Newsworld (7076)
9.00 O Fleam Dy Lygall (8611)
10.00 Brookside (902279)
10.30 Film: Keys (9891434)
12.20am in Eddie (4535358)
12.50-1.20 Dressing for Breakfast (4274309)
9.00 Cutting Edge: The Investigators A look into the seamy side of local government in Lambeth, South London (T) (8911)
10.00 Short Time (1990) Debraj Coleman plays a policeman who mistakenly believes that he is dying and sets out to be killed on active duty so that his wife can collect the insurance. Directed by Gregg Champion (T) (788540)
11.45 High Anxiety (1977) Mel Brooks wrote, directed, stars (and sings) the title song in this spoof of Alfred Hitchcock's thriller (T) (676873)
1.30am Taking the Mid-Life Rap A daughter with a singing biography of her father (T) (1536090)
2.15 Satellite Wars How governments try to control satellites (T) (T) (7389019)
3.00 Invisible Enemies Why some diseases become epidemic (T) (T) (16498)
4.00 Schools: Encyclopaedia Galactica (63942) 5.45 Out For Adventure (3384563)
Mel Brooks stars (11.45pm)
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12.50-1.20 Dressing for Breakfast (4274309)

- PARAMOUNT COMEDY
7.00pm Grace Under Fire (7637) 7.30 Roscoe (1776) 8.00 Henry Cavill (357) 8.30 Almost Perfect (5892) 9.00 Murphy Brown (28453) 9.30 Murphy Brown (30760) 10.00 Murphy Brown (1190) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (81724) 11.30 Married with Children (1029) 11.55 M\*A\*S\*H (1029) 12.00 General Hospital (9593) 12.30 General Hospital (9593) 12.55 General Hospital (9593) 1.00 General Hospital (9593) 1.30 General Hospital (9593) 1.55 General Hospital (9593) 2.00 General Hospital (9593) 2.30 General Hospital (9593) 2.55 General Hospital (9593) 3.00 General Hospital (9593) 3.30 General Hospital (9593) 3.55 General Hospital (9593) 4.00 General Hospital (9593) 4.30 General Hospital (9593) 4.55 General Hospital (9593) 5.00 General Hospital (9593) 5.30 General Hospital (9593) 5.55 General Hospital (9593) 6.00 General Hospital (9593) 6.30 General Hospital (9593) 6.55 General Hospital (9593) 7.00 General Hospital (9593) 7.30 General Hospital (9593) 7.55 General Hospital (9593) 8.00 General Hospital (9593) 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TENNIS 46 Lee learns from rare chance to savour big time

SPORT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24 1998

ROWING 50 Cambridge throw president overboard before Boat Race



European bids face new challenge

South Africa enters race to run World Cup

By JOHN GOODBODY

SOUTH Africa formally declared that it would be challenging England and Germany for the right to stage the 2006 World Cup yesterday.

and have a high regard for the candidacy. "We knew the competition for 2006 would be tough and we welcome the opportunity for the strength of our bid to be compared with other nations."

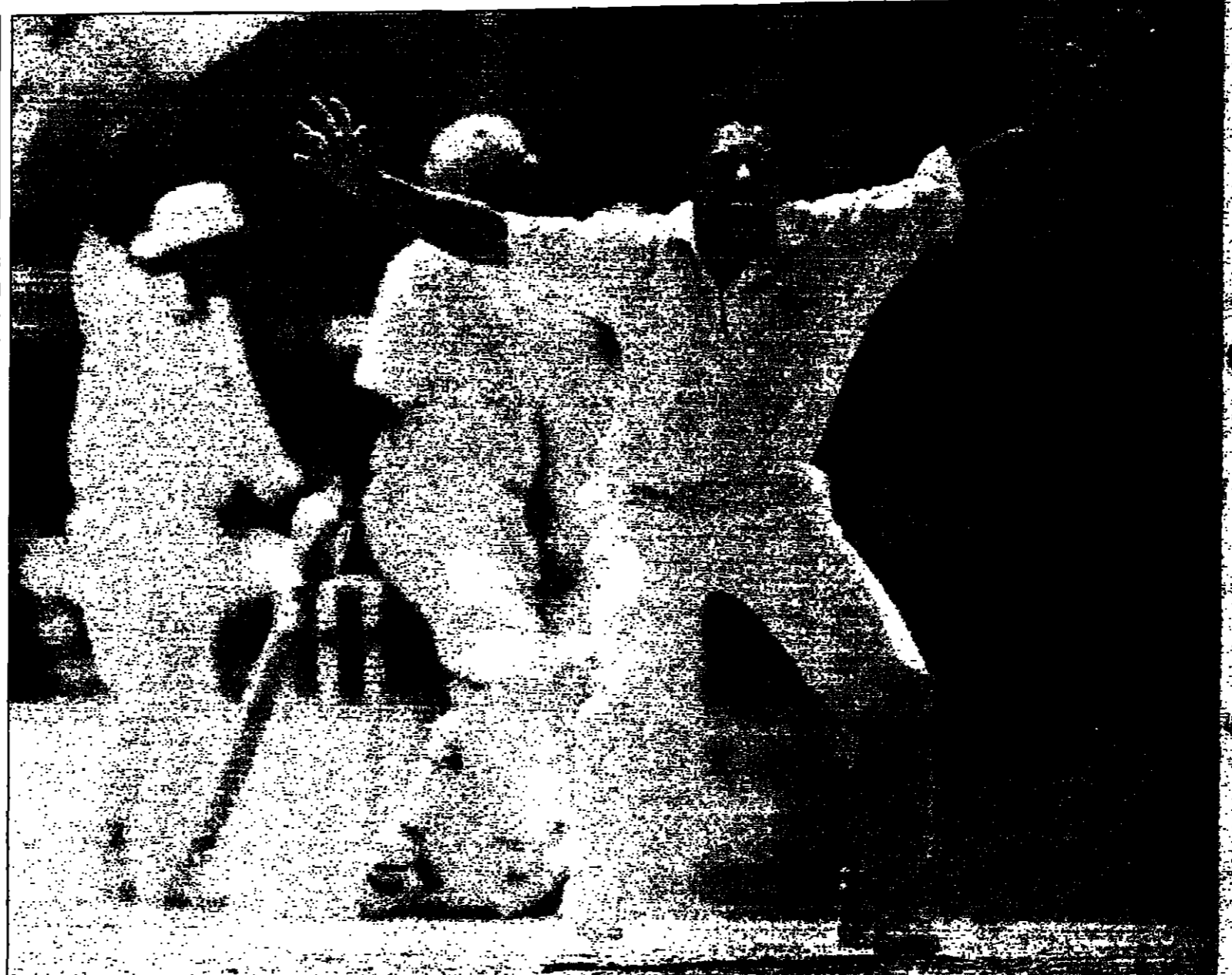
South Africa formally declared that it would be challenging England and Germany for the right to stage the 2006 World Cup yesterday.

Clydebank defiant on plans for Dublin move

CLYDEBANK officials yesterday indicated that they are prepared for a legal fight if their attempts to move the football club from Glasgow to Dublin are blocked.

as if we have a new club to deal with every week. Barnett will be next," he said, referring to similar past proposals by Celtic and Wimbledon.

South America may also produce a bid for 2006. It has not staged the tournament since 1986, in Mexico.



Silverwood, the better of England's new-ball pair, appeals in vain for leg-before against Lambert. Photograph: Laurence Griffiths / Allsport

England spinners provide late twist

FROM ALAN LEE IN GEORGETOWN, GUYANA

ON MASHRAMANI Day, when the Guyanese celebrate the anniversary of independence, Georgetown decided to forgo interest in cricket and focus on carnival.

one, Croft ensured that the choice will not be a formality. Significantly, he was the first used again yesterday and bowled 12 overs while Tufnell fretted in the deep field.

Croft quickly took two wickets of his own and Tufnell trumped him with a third. Guyana, having cleared their deficit without fuss or concern, had suddenly lost five wickets for 15 runs and were scrapping to save the game.

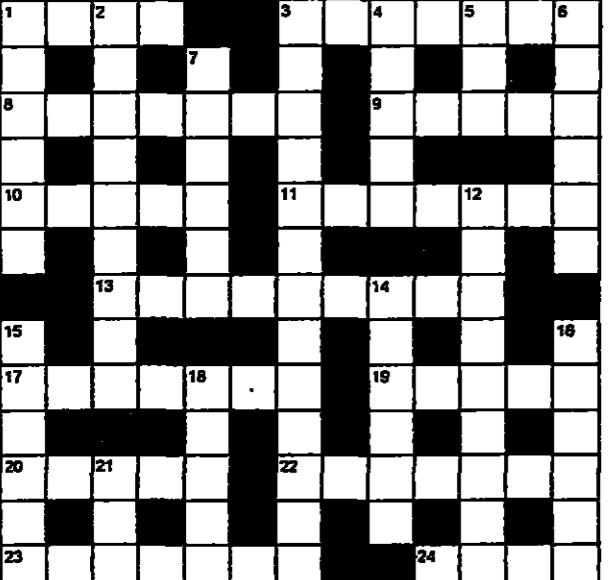
together more regularly. Unless the Test pitch at Bourda is drier or barer than England expect, they must make a delicate selection.

looked much the more menacing of England's young new-ball pair and it was pertinent to reflect that he is here only through the fitness problems of his Yorkshire colleague, Darren Gough.

GEORGETOWN SCOREBOARD

Table with columns for GUYANA: First Innings, Second Innings, ENGLAND: First Innings, and Bowling figures.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



ACROSS 1 In proper manner, good time (4) 2 Roadside (7) 3 Sweet course (7) 4 NW Canada territory, river (5) 5 John -, empiricist; sounds like cart of hair (5) 6 Foster, rear (7) 7 As extra (eg work); illicitly (2,3,4) 8 In addition (7) 9 (Indian) title of respect (5) 10 Greenly genius (5) 11 Dutch city, 1713 treaty (7) 12 US state, capital Albany (3,4) 13 Walk wearily (4) SOLUTION TO NO 1336 ACROSS: 1 Goose-flesh 9 Partake 10 Acrid 11 Roar 12 Disburse 14 Cantor 15 Trivia 18 Acoustic 20 Arnie 22 India 23 Mounted 24 Non-starter DOWN: 2 Oval 3 Specie 4 Flaubert 5 Error 6 Hidden agenda 7 Appreciation 8 Ordain 13 Constant 16 Vanity 17 Simmer 19 Olden 21 Cute

Yates may attempt to clear his name in High Court

By MARK SOUSTER

ON A day when events off the field again dominated rugby union, Kevin Yates, the Bath and England prop forward, announced that he had decided not to appeal against the six-month ban imposed by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) for allegedly biting the ear of Simon Fenn, the London Scottish flanker.



Vickery: ban appeal

"This is unprecedented, the first time there has been an appeal against a ciding. I need to make sure the procedures are correct," he said. He will also be considering an appeal by France against a decision not to suspend Craig Chalmers, who had been cited on Saturday night for foul play against David Aucagne during the second half of the international at Murrayfield.

Test player killed by cricket ball

A FORMER India Test cricketer died in hospital yesterday, three days after being hit on the head while playing in a club match in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh (John Goodbody writes).

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Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Irvine borro', 'Prince hosp', 'after s', and 'Blair'.